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JAPANESE REACTION TO ANNOUNCED U.S. SANCTIONS

Sanctions Lift Urged

OW280257 Tokyo KYODO in English 0249 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO -- International Trade and Industry Minister Hajime Tamura Saturday strongly urged President Ronald Reagan to lift just-announced trade sanctions against Japan which will raise tariffs on a number of Japanese electronic products.

Tamura called for holding emergency talks in Washington between Japan and the United States "the week after next" over U.S. accusations of Japanese chip makers selling their products in third countries at unfair prices and Japan blocking foreign access to its market. The Japanese-U.S. agreement on semiconductor trade issues, signed last July and put into force in September, stipulates that either of the two countries can ask the other to hold emergency consultations, Tamura said in a statement.

Tamura told a press conference his ministry has no intention to carry out additional measures to observe the seven-month-old chip pact, saying he has taken every possible step to solve the issues including alleged dumping of Japanese-made semiconductor memory chips in third countries.

MITI [Ministry of International Trade and Industry] Monday announced an administrative guideline to curb production of 256-kilobit dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips by 11 percent in the April-June period, compared with the preceding quarter, following a 10 percent quarter-to-quarter cut in the first three months of 1987.

Tamura also urged leading Japanese electronic firms earlier in the week to stop dumping their products in third-country markets and to increase their purchases of foreign-made microchips. "The steps are effective," he said. "As a result of these measures, I am confident of visible and remarkable improvements. The problem is time."

Tamura said that if the Reagan administration enforces sanctions unilaterally, Japan will take "appropriate steps," including filing a complaint with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which prohibits discriminative tariffs against a specific country or countries. He also pointed out the possibility of scrapping part or all of the bilateral semiconductor accord.

In response to a question on the effect of the U.S. action on other fields in Japan-U.S. trade relationship, Tamura expressed an optimistic view, saying the range of the sanctions is limited to "a small number" of semiconductor related goods. Japan will continue its efforts to promote a free trading system under the GATT, the world's watchdog on trade rules.

Ambassador Protests to Shultz

OW280625 Tokyo KYODO in English 0606 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Washington, March 27 KYODO -- In protest to a U.S. trade action, Japanese Ambassador to Washington Nobuo Matsunaga Friday expressed strong discontent over the U.S. decision to impose punitive tariffs on some Japanese electronics products in talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Matsunaga defended Japanese efforts regarding the bilateral microchip trade pact, saying that Japan has sincerely abided by the trade pact, signed last September, which is intended to thwart dumping by Japanese chip makers in both the U.S. and third-country markets.

Shultz told Matsunaga that if Japanese firms really stop selling microchips at less than fair market value, the U.S. will no longer need to enforce the trade sanctions.

Shultz also said that U.S. exasperation is growing over the unwillingness of Japanese Government agencies and national universities to purchase U.S.-made supercomputers -- extremely high-speed computers used for technical and scientific calculations.

He urged that Japan make further sincere efforts to expand domestic demand and open up its markets including the agricultural product market.

Shultz said he is attaching great importance to the planned U.S. visit by Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone from perspectives of both countries' responsibility for the world economy, relations between Eastern and Western political blocs as well as the upcoming Venice summit in Italy of seven leading industrialized democracies.

Matsunaga warned the U.S. Government against harboring "unrealistic" expectations for obtaining trade concessions during a planned U.S. visit by Nakasone. Matsunaga also hinted that the success of planned talks between Nakasone and President Ronald Reagan is linked to the degree of such expectations on the U.S. side.

Shultz said if Japan continues to run a huge trade surplus, it will inevitably have to suffer some economic reverses in the long term. He urged that Japan implement recommendations of the "Maekawa" report, which called for restructuring of the export-driven Japanese economy into one more dependent on domestic demand and more harmonious with the international community.

The report was compiled by a blue-ribbon panel headed by former Bank of Japan Governor Haruo Maekawa in an effort to improve economic relations between Japan and its trading partners which are running chronic trade deficits with Japan.

In a meeting with U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter, Matsunaga also protested against the U.S. Government's decision to impose punitive tariffs on some types of Japanese electronics products. He criticized the U.S. government for adopting such trade sanctions at a time when Japan is making efforts to enforce provisions of the bilateral semiconductor trade agreement. He said Japan will make utmost efforts to live up to the trade accord.

Investigation of Chip Dumping

OW280850 Tokyo KYODO in English 0843 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO -- Japan will propose an on-the-spot investigation on U.S. charges that Japanese semiconductor manufacturers are "dumping" chips in third countries, government sources said Saturday.

The sources at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said the proposal will be made at a Japan-U.S. emergency meeting on the semiconductor trade dispute, provisionally to be held in the second week of April. Such an investigation would presumably be conducted in third-country markets, such as Hong Kong or Singapore, as well as in Japan.

The move follows a U.S. announcement that it will take retaliatory action against Japanese chip manufacturers. MITI hopes to disprove the U.S. charges through the on-site probe, the sources said.

The ministry also urged the U.S. Government to withdraw planned retaliatory action which it said violates provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Japan-U.S. agreement on the semiconductor trade. It said Japan has faithfully observed the bilateral agreement signed last September.

The United States contends that Japan has failed to implement its pledges not to export chips at prices lower than fair market value and to increase the share of imported U.S.-made semiconductors on the Japanese market.

Meeting With U.S. Requested

OW300657 Tokyo KYODO in English 0652 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO -- The Japanese Government Monday will formally request emergency consultations with the United States over President Ronald Reagan's decision to impose import duties on a variety of Japanese products, officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said. The move follows President Reagan's announcement on Friday that import duties will be levied in retaliation for Japan's failure to observe a bilateral trade agreement on semiconductor memory chips. Under the seven-month-old pact, either nation can request the holding of emergency talks within 14 days, the officials said.

MITI Vice Minister for International Affairs Makoto Kuroda will represent the Japanese delegation at the meetings, to take place in Washington possibly by late next week. MITI also plans to send Yukiharu Kodama, director-general of the Machinery and Information Industries Bureau, to Washington later this week to prepare for the consultations, the officials said.

Electronics Industry Reacts

OW2801515 Tokyo KYODO in English 0501 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO -- Japanese electric appliance and electronics industries Saturday renewed their pledges to achieve "visible results," possibly in two weeks, of sharp production cutbacks, in semiconductors to help stem growing bilateral trade tensions between Japan and the United States.

Expressing great regret over U.S. President Ronald Reagan's decision earlier in the day to take a series of retaliatory actions against alleged dumping by Japanese chip makers, industry leaders said, "We have very few measures we can take, but we would like to completely implement our plans for more production cutbacks."

"The latest tough decision is quite regrettable since it has come at a time when we are making strenuous efforts to decrease production in accordance with guidelines from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry," they said. They especially deplored that the U.S. did not understand their efforts in this connection.

In a statement issued the same day, the Electronic Industries Association of Japan (EIAJ) expressed grave concern over what items would be subjected to possible U.S. retaliations.

"This decision signifies that the crisis in U.S.-Japan trade friction has reached a peak and catapulted U.S.-Japan relations into a troubled new stage," it said.

Expressing the belief that possible U.S. retaliations "will have a severe impact on the Japanese electronic industries," the statement said, "we urge U.S. governmental authorities to reconsider the decision made, to evaluate fairly the results of Japanese efforts in implementing the objectives" of the eight-month-old bilateral chip accord.

In this respect, the association renewed to honor its earlier pledges, specifically the following three points:

-- to follow MITI's stringent administrative guidelines concerning export prices as well as demand and supply forecasts

-- commitment of 3 million dollars over the next five years to establish the International Semiconductor Cooperation Center (INSEC) to assist foreign-made companies' efforts to gain access to the Japanese market.

-- to make every effort to eliminate low-price, gray market transactions involving third countries directly under MITI guidance.

Referring specifically to the INSEC, the statement said that American Semiconductor Manufacturers have not joined the center, whereas a fresh manufacturer is participating in the center. "This suggests that American semiconductor manufacturers may not really be interested in participating in the Japanese market," the statement added.

NTT TO PURCHASE LATEST CRAY SUPERCOMPUTER

OW261101 Tokyo KYODO in English 1013 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 26 KYODO -- Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. is considering purchasing the latest model Cray supercomputer from Cray Research Inc. of the U.S., a company official said Thursday. The new supercomputer, the Cray 2, is the fastest supercomputer made by the U.S. supercomputer firm, having a calculating speed of 1.7 billion floating point operations per second. NTT previously purchased a Cray 1 supercomputer from the U.S. company in April of 1984, and repurchased a second Cray supercomputer from another Japanese firm in May of last year. The new Cray 2 will thus be the third Cray for NTT.

Supercomputers have become an area of trade friction between Japan and the U.S., with the U.S. claiming that unfair barriers exist against the sale of U.S.-made supercomputers in Japan. Cray, which has the top share in the world supercomputer market, has so far been able to sell only seven supercomputers in Japan. Thus it appears that the NTT purchase is being made to ease high-tech trade friction between Japan and the U.S.

YI KUN-MO AGREES TO DPRK-ROK MINISTERIAL TALKS

SK300400 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0307 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Letter dated 30 March from Yi Kun-mo, premier of the DPRK State Administration Council, to ROK Prime Minister No Sin-yong on 30 March -- read by announcer]

[Text] Comrade Yi Kun-mo, premier of the DPRK State Administration Council, sent the following letter to the South Korean prime minister on 30 March:

To No Sin-yong, prime minister of the Republic of Korea

I received your side's reply letter sent on 17 March. I paid attention to the fact that in the reply letter, your side showed an interest in the matter of easing the strained situation prevailing in the country.

As repeatedly stressed by us, easing the strained situation between the North and South is an acute task which our two sides must give top priority to and jointly solve at present. If the current grave situation in which the fellow countrymen confront each other, pointing guns at each other, is not removed but is left intact, our nation will be inevitably plunged onto an ominous road. We must avert this calamitous situation, which is not advantageous to either the North or the South, at any cost. The best method the North and South should choose is to hold talks to substantially resolve the problem of easing tension.

I consider that your side does not differ that such an important political and military question as easing the strained situation of the country cannot be solved through nonpolitical talks, like talks dealing with humanitarian problems or talks handling economic problems.

I regard your side's proposal for prime ministerial talks in the reply letter as proceeding precisely from the recognition that when high-level political talks are held, the problem of easing tension can be resolved.

If holding political talks can practically alleviate tension and guarantee peace for the country and nation, we have no desire to insist on formality. In this regard, I think it not bad [nappujianta] to hold premiers' talks as your side has proposed.

If premiers' talks are held, the North and South will be able to comprehensively discuss all problems necessary for the alleviation of tension. This will make it possible to eliminate confrontation and distrust and successfully seek multisided talks in a good atmosphere of conciliation and unity.

Since your side recognizes the necessity of holding high-level political talks, such as premiers' talks, and our side expresses the opinion that the holding of premiers' talks is all right [mubanghada], our two sides must arrange these talks at an early date.

Proceeding from this, I courteously propose to your side holding minister-level preliminary talks soon [chosokhi] to arrange the North-South premiers' talks.

I think it appropriate that the delegates to preliminary talks be ministerial-level personnel designated by the premiers of the two sides, and be accompanied by about two suite members.

I think it would be good to hold the first preliminary talks at 1000 on 23 April 1987 in Tongilgak, the building of our side in Panmunjom. I believe that the arrangement of preliminary talks to arrange the premiers' talks itself will be the first step in creating an atmosphere of conciliation, alleviation, and trust.

I hope that you will direct prudent attention to our constructive proposal and will send an affirmative reply.

[Signed] Yi Kun-mo, premier of the State Administration Council of the DPRK, 30 Mar 1987

KIM IL-SONG INTERVIEWED ON ROK, OLYMPICS

PA291721 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] The expulsion of Yankee troops, thus ending the colonial domination of U.S. imperialism in this part of the peninsula, is an essential prerequisite for independence, democracy, and reunification, top DPRK leader Kim Il-song said during an interview for PRENSA LATINA. Kim Il-song pointed out that despite the brutal repression of the Chon Tu-hwan regime, the patriotic struggle in South Korea for independence, democracy, and reunification is becoming stronger.

The DPRK president said that the United States has already deployed more than 1,000 nuclear weapons of various types in South Korea, which makes the peninsula a potential danger for Asia and for all humanity. Regarding the co-sponsoring of the 1988 Olympics, Kim Il-song said that important progress has not been made because the South Korean side is insisting that competitions in only two events take place in North Korea, in addition to a few matches of two other events.

Kim Il-song, also secretary general of the Workers Party of Korea, referred to the increasingly close ties his country has with the USSR and other socialist countries which, he said, greatly strengthen the solidarity and unity of the international communist movement. In conclusion, he said that strong ties exist between the DPRK and Cuba, and expressed gratitude for the campaign carried out internationally by the Cuban Communist Party and Government in favor of the Korean people's quest for the reunification of the fatherland.

CROWE'S REMARKS ON DPRK FORCES BUILDUP REBUTTED

SK281003 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Commentary by station commentator Kim Myong-nam: "The Unpassable Counterpropaganda"]

[Text] According to news reports, William Crowe, a person who holds the title of chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, babbled in a meeting of the armed forces subcommittee at the U.S. House of Representatives that North Korea has deployed several reserve divisions in areas close to the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] and that it is now beefing up special warfare units without interruption.

No nonsense is so preposterous as this. Realities in the North and South are the clear evidence as to who is beefing up the armed forces of aggression and who is frantically running riot in moves toward the provocation of a war on the Korean peninsula.

Instead of deploying several reserve divisions in areas close to the MDL and beefing up special warfare units as babbled by the U.S. imperialists, the northern half of the republic has not only detached units of the People's Army from the frontline areas, but it has also sent them to the construction sites of major projects of the great socialist construction, while the entire population is vigorously engaged in peaceful construction.

Despite this fact, the U.S. imperialists, going in the opposite direction as us, who are doing our best to ease tension on the Korean peninsula, are not only beefing up their aggressive military forces on a large scale, but are also running riot in moves toward the provocation of a war.

In order to improve their capability to strike at the northern half of the republic, the U.S. imperialists have reorganized South Korea's aggressive military forces in general to make them strike-oriented, organized commando units with 180,000 troops, and turned all search units into commando units.

In addition, they have deployed more than 80 to 90 percent of the U.S. imperialist forces of aggression occupying South Korea and the puppet armed forces in forward areas close to the MDL and keep a great quantity of war materiel in preparation for a war. Also, the U.S. imperialists have recently organized and deployed the 7th U.S. Air Force Command in South Korea and have been introducing F-16 fighter-bombers into South Korea without interruption. At the same time, the U.S. imperialists are beefing up the army troops on a large scale.

According to information available, the U.S. imperialists are going to establish anew the Army Pacific Command in the near future, with its headquarters in Hawaii, to directly command U.S. Army units scattered in the Asian and Pacific region, including South Korea, Japan, and the Philippines. Foreign news reported that the U.S. imperialists, following this plan, will further beef up the U.S. Army units in the Asian and Pacific region and the U.S. Army troops occupying South Korea in particular to confront us.

The increase in F-16 fighter-bombers and their deployment in South Korea the establishment of the U.S. 7th Air Force Command to be stationed permanently in South Korea, and the fresh establishment of the Army Pacific Command demonstrate that the U.S. imperialists are beefing up their aggressive forces on a large scale in South Korea and its neighboring areas and that they are about to light the fuse of war on the Korean peninsula without fail.

The "Team Spirit-87" war exercise being frantically conducted in South Korea by the U.S. imperialists and the Chon Tu-hwan puppets is also part of such a maneuver. Despite such facts, the U.S. imperialists are now babbling about someone else's forward deployment or military buildup. This is nothing but a brazen-faced sophistry like a thief calling others thieves. Counterpropaganda based on distortion of facts will convince no one and such a tune will rather reveal more of the U.S. imperialists' true color as the flagrant aggressors and warmongers.

To ease tension in the country and achieve peaceful reunification through dialogue and negotiations is the consistent stand maintained by our party and the government of the republic. Putting forward various kinds of fair and just peace proposals with a view toward easing tension on the Korean peninsula and creating an environment favorable to peace and peaceful reunification we have been making every possible effort for their realization.

Precisely at such a moment, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, while increasing the aggressive forces on a large scale and conducting the provocative "Team Spirit-87" war exercise, are aggravating political confrontation and military tension between the North and South furthermore. This is an open challenge to our peace-loving effort and a mockery of the world's people who hope for peace and peaceful reunification of Korea.

If the United States really hopes for the relaxation of tension on the Korean peninsula, it should respond to the proposal for tripartite talks, instead of ignoring our peace-loving proposals and running along the path of war.

If the U.S. imperialists continue rushing on a criminal road of provoking a new war in defiance of (?my) repeated warnings, they will encounter greater resistance and denunciation of the people at home and abroad as the enemy of peace and reunification.

U.S., ROK 'PROVOCATIVE' POHANG LANDING SCORED

SK2900807 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0800 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Pyongyang March 29 (KCNA) -- The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, getting frenzied with the "Team Spirit 87" war rehearsal, staged a provocative landing operation exercise simulating an attack on a coastal city of the northern half of the DPRK in Pohang on the east coast of Korea on the morning of March 27, according to a report.

This frantic landing operation exercise which began with an attacking operation simultaneously from the sky and sea following the massing of the U.S. Seventh Fleet in the sea off Pohang was completely reminiscent of a real war.

While running with bloodshot eyes in the "Team Spirit 87" military exercises, the U.S. imperialists enforced a strict news blackout. This is a revelation of their sinister intention to conceal their criminal action and, at the same time, invade the northern half of the DPRK by means of surprise attack in case conditions are created.

The Korean people are watching the moves of the U.S. imperialists and the Chon Tu-hwan puppet clique with heightened vigilance.

BRIEFS

DELEGATIONS TO POLAND, GDR -- A DPRK Government delegation headed by Pyon Yong-nip, chairman of the Education Commission, to attend the celebrations of the eighth anniversary of the national day of the Republic of Malta, a trade union delegation headed by Kim Pong-chu, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, to attend the 37th bureau meeting of the World Federation of Trade Unions in Poland, a delegation of the State Planning Commission headed by its Vice-chairman Kim Song-yong to visit Poland, and a delegation of Kim Il-song University headed by its Vice-president No Song-chan to visit the German Democratic Republic left Pyongyang Wednesday. The State Pyongyang circus and the children's art troupe flew back home yesterday from Indonesia, and the Ugandan economic delegation left for home on the same day. [Text] [Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000 GMT 25 Mar 87 SK]

USSR TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES -- A Khabarovsk territorial economic and trade delegation of the Soviet Union headed by Pavel Morozov, deputy chairman of the Executive Committee of the Khabarovsk Territorial Soviet of People's Deputies and chairman of the Planning Committee, arrived in Pyongyang on March 26 [Excerpt] [Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000 GMT 25 Mar 87 SK]

UNC COUNTERPROPOSES HOLDING MAC MEETING 3 APR

SK270035 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] The U.N. Command has counterproposed that the 437th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) be held at Panmunjom on April 3.

The UNC said yesterday that the counterproposal was made in response to a north Korean proposal that the meeting convene on March 27.

The UNC side requested that the north Korean side of the MAC provide a list of topics it wants to raise at the meeting, he said.

ROK CONSIDERING APPLYING FOR UN SEAT 'THIS YEAR'

SK280050 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Korea is cautiously considering submitted an application for United Nations membership this year, government sources said yesterday. The last such application to the world body was made in 1975.

"It is high time for the nation to be represented at the United Nations as it prepares to host the 1988 Summer Olympics," a high-ranking official said on the condition of anonymity.

He declined to elaborate the date of application, but said that the government would seek the membership in disregard of Pyongyang's opposition to separate U.N. membership of the two Korea.

"We still believe the two Koreas' presence as full members at the United Nations would contribute not only to easing tension on the divided peninsula but also in the world as a whole.

"But we cannot wait for a positive answer (from the north) forever. We hope they will follow suit," said the official.

Both south and north Korea sought U.N. membership first in 1949. After a few repeated failures, north Korea stopped the efforts in the 1950s, while the south applied for the membership last in September, 1975, without success because of the Soviet veto.

After a long silence on the subject, Seoul began to campaign for the U.N. membership with renewed emphasis in the wake of its selection in 1981 as the host of the 1988 Summer Olympics.

Seoul believes that both Koreas' admission into the United Nations will be the best way for the relaxation of tension in the region just as it will be a cross recognition of them by surrounding powers, which is another diplomatic goal of the ROK.

According to Article 4 of the U.N. Charter, the U.N. membership is "open to all peace-loving states which accept the obligations contained in the Charter."

Foreign Ministry officials say that it is absurd that the ROK should stay out of the most-respected peace forum of the world, while it seeks peaceful solutions to all disputes including the Korean question.

They say that Korea is also qualified for the U.N. membership as the 12th greatest trading nation in the world, with a 45 million peace-loving population.

International support for Seoul's position to enter the United Nations together with Pyongyang or alone was enhanced markedly after the 40th UNGA [UN General Assembly] in 1985 where government representatives of south and north Korea gave addresses for the first time.

During the 41st UNGA last year, delegates from 55 countries publicly supported Seoul's formula. Japan and Britain, in particular, made speeches in support of Seoul's position.

Seoul will send its application to the U.N. secretary-general who will automatically pass it to the Security Council. The Security Council, consisting of five permanent and 10 non-permanent members, will decide whether to adopt it as an agenda item through voting. A minimum of nine votes is required to make the application an agenda item.

The five permanent members of the Security Council are the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France. The 10 non-permanent members are Venezuela, Zambia, Argentina, Bulgaria, Congo, Ghana, Italy, Japan, the United Arab Emirates, and West Germany.

When the application is approved by nine or more votes, the five permanent members will finally decide whether to veto the application or not. If no veto is exercised, the Security Council will produce a resolution approving the membership and will send it to the General Assembly for ceremonial endorsement.

South and north Korea now have U.N. observer status, which gives them a voice but not a vote on matters of direct concern.

While south and north Korea are represented at almost all the major U.N. agencies, the north has been objecting the idea of simultaneous admission with a logic that it would "only lead to the perpetuation of the division and creation of the two Koreas."

U.N. specialists, however, say that the U.N. membership has nothing to do with the territorial division of a country. For instance, the Soviet Union is represented by three ambassadors -- one each from Moscow, the Ukraine and Belorussia.

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON USSR, PRC CONTACTS

SK271323 Seoul YONHAP in English 1305 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Seoul, March 27 (YONHAP) -- South Korea is striving to expand contacts with the Soviet Union and that consultations are under way with the United States about the matter, Foreign Minister Choe Kwang-su said Friday. "The effort is intended to balance contacts between the United States and North Korea with those of Seoul and Moscow," Choe told a National Assembly Foreign Committee session.

Choe said the recent U.S. step allowing its diplomats to socialize with their North Korean counterparts prompted the move. Seoul and Moscow have no formal ties, while Pyongyang has no diplomatic relations with Washington.

The foreign minister also said Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone discussed with Chinese leaders on the establishment of South Korea's trade mission in China, when he visited Beijing last autumn.

Although substantial exchanges have not built up between the two countries enough to set up a Korean trade mission in China, the government would expand exchanges in non-political fields, he said.

Meanwhile, National Reunification Minister Ho Mun-to said U.S. contacts with North Korea will help ease tension on the Korean peninsula and promote the national reunification in a long-term point of view.

Referring to the Seoul Olympics, Ho said in the Foreign Committee session, "North Korea will seek to the last moment to exploit the Seoul Olympics either to foil the games or to co-host them." The success of the Seoul Olympics will make North Korea realize the conspicuous gap of power between the two Koreas, leading to a conclusion that their communization plan of the Korean peninsula would be just a vain dream, and eventually promoting inter-Korea dialogue, Ho said.

"The growth of our national power has recently been one of great factors affecting the situation on and around the Korean peninsula," Ho went on, adding the four powers of the United States, Japan, China and the Soviet Union have now come to view South Korea as a force to be reckoned with in Northeast Asia.

CHON WARNS OF NORTH'S THREAT AT CEREMONY

SK260059 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 26 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] President Chon Tu-hwan yesterday warned of an increasing security threat from north Korea, saying the next one or two years will be critical for south Korean defense.

The nation will be free of the fear of fighting another war if it can survive this period and pursue economic and political progress, President Chon said.

"We have to strengthen our defenses as if we were preparing ourselves for war," he said.

President Chon made these remarks at the commencement ceremony for the 43d class of the Korean Military Academy. First Lady Yi Su-cha was present.

We can't predict what kind of adventurism the "irrational and hostile" north Korean Communists may resort to, he said.

The widening economic gap between south and north Korea, he said, may tempt Pyongyang to provoke Seoul.

The temptation is great for the north Korean Communists because they may be forced to make a "life-or-death decision" in an effort to defend their deteriorating political system, which is based on personality cult, Chon said.

The way will be paved for advancement and unification if south Korea is able to fend off north Korean provocation, he said.

"After a long period of hardship and stagnation, we now have an opportunity to become one of the major nations in world history," Chon said. "We must not lose this opportunity."

"The government will wisely manage great national events by actively responding to both internal and external climates and learning a lesson from those countries whose dream of becoming advanced nations was frustrated at the threshold."

President Chon was apparently referring to a peaceful change of government and the 1988 Seoul Olympics when he mentioned "great national events."

"During this important period, we have to guard against lapsing into social instability or political turmoil," he said. "Social stability is more important now than ever."

North Korea will be forced to acknowledge defeat in its competition with the south before long, he said.

North Korean military power, which has been built on the sacrifice of the citizens, will no longer threaten South Korea's "firm will for self-defense," he said.

DJP DENIES REPORT ON NO TAE-U'S U.S. VISIT PLAN

SK270645 Seoul YONHAP in English 0631 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Seoul, March 27 (YONHAP) -- South Korea's ruling Democratic Justice Party Friday denied a report that its chairman, No Tae-u, plans to visit the United States in June. Choe Sang-chin, the party's vice spokesman, said that No has not yet received an invitation to visit the United States nor has the party worked out a travel itinerary for him.

A close aide to No, the No. 2 man in the ruling party, said that a trip by the party chairman to the United States is unlikely in view of Korea's political situation.

Another party source said it was true, however, that the possibility of a U.S. trip was discussed inside the party among working-level party officials but that the decision has not been made, due to domestic politics.

Party sources said Thursday that No is considering a two-week visit to the United States in June for talks with U.S. congressional and administration leaders to discuss matters of mutual concern between the two countries. The sources said that Americans are making arrangements for No to meet with top U.S. congressional and government leaders. If the visit materializes, the source said, No, who was given "full authority" by President Chon Tu-hwan to handle political matters, will deliver speeches to American audiences on the Korean political situation.

NO TAE-U GIVEN FULL POWER TO CONDUCT POLITICS

SK260054 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 26 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] No Tae-u, chairman of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, has been given more leeway to negotiate constitutional reform with the opposition.

President Chon Tu-hwan told No yesterday to try to break the current political deadlock over the constitutional revision at his discretion, DJP secretary general Yi Chun-ku said.

Concurrently DJP president, Chon was quoted as saying that with more discretionary power, the DJP chairman will have stronger leadership in national politics.

The President made the remarks at a dinner he hosted for the DJP's top officeholders, including No, Yi, floor leader Yi Han-tong, and chairmen of the party provincial chapters.

Briefing reporters, Yi said Chon also stressed that the party should be united to take the initiative in domestic politics, as well as to lead the nation's efforts for unification.

Yesterday's meeting at Chongwadae was held to congratulate chairman No on his reappointment last month, according to Yi.

"In the meeting, the President put much emphasis on the importance of party unity under the leadership of chairman No," the secretary general said.

Observers said that the presidential remarks on No's leadership are interpreted as giving the DJP chairman substantial power to lead domestic politics.

They cautiously forecast that the remarks may also be interpreted as giving No leeway to carry out the "democratization measures," such as amnesty and restoration of civil rights for those detained for political reasons.

In the meeting, Chon also expressed much concern about the present internal feuding of the main opposition New Korea Democratic Party.

"The NKDP should soon settle the intraparty disputes and return to debates on constitutional reform," Yi quoted the President as saying.

The President pointed out that only realization of the projected constitutional revision by bipartisan agreement will meet the people's expectations," Yi said.

President Chon and the other participants exchanged views on various matters of political concerns, including the developments within the NKDP, according to the secretary general.

The meeting lasted for about two hours.

NKDP Reaction

SK270107 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Mar 87 p 2

[Text] Leaders of the main opposition New Korea Democratic Party [NDP] yesterday were careful about reacting to the report that No Tae-u, chairman of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, was empowered by President Chon Tu-hwan, to handle domestic political affairs, including the constitutional amendment issue. Some of them expressed doubts.

Party President Yi Min-u, expressing his deep concern about the report, said, "I cannot know the real meaning since the report was sudden."

"I will watch the situation with the DJP as time passes," he said.

Both Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung made no comment.

Rep. Choe Hyong-u, a vice president from the Sangdo-dong faction led by Kim Yong-sam, said, "If No was in fact given full power, the proposed meeting of real power should be held without delay."

The NDP has demanded the meeting of what they call real power should be held without delay."

The NDP has demanded the meeting of what they call real power, namely President Chon Tu-hwan, Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung, refusing to recognize No as one of the real powers in the ruling camp.

Rep. Yi Chung-chae, a vice president from the Tonggyo-dong faction led by Kim Tae-chung, said, "What I am concerned about is whether No was given the real power to lead the political situation."

NO TAE-U HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE 28 MAR

SK290027 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 29 Mar 87 p 2

["Excerpts" of questions and answers between DJP Chairman No Tae-u and reports at a hotel in Kwangju on 28 March]

[Text] Question: How long will the ruling party wait for the opposition New Korea Democratic Party [NDP] to settle its international dispute?

Answer: I don't want to set any specific date lest it influence in a negative way the projected inter-partisan negotiation for the constitutional amendment. If I reveal the deadline, the rival parties may become less flexible in their negotiation.

Q: If the intra-party confusion in the NDP continues, will the DJP take a unilateral action on the constitutional amendment?

A: The DJP and I will make every effort to realize the constitutional amendment through an inter-partisan agreement until the last moment. The DJP will never deal with it unilaterally.

Q: The mainstreamers of the opposition NDP seek to have Mr. Kim Yong-sam take control of the party. Are you willing to promote a meeting with Kim Yong-sam as you have been given full power with regard to the negotiation of the constitutional amendment?

A: To mention a specific person as a partner for dialogue will be of no help for the NDP to settle its internal discord.

As to who will be the representative negotiator, there is no problem in our party (apparently citing the fact that he has been given full power by President Chon Tu-hwan).

But, I am not in a position to mention the NDP leadership.

Q: Do you think that President Chon has nominated you his successor by giving you full powers with regard to the constitutional amendment and the party management?

A: Don't make such a premature interpretation, please. I don't think so. The major task facing our party, President Chon and me is to achieve the constitutional amendment by consensus.

Q: There has been much controversy within the party over whether President Chon has in fact empowered you to make political decisions on granting amnesty to political detainees and dissident figures (including Kim Tae-chung). What is your opinion on that issue?

A: There has never been such controversies in our party, as you said. It was just your misperception. I make it clear here that granting amnesty and restoring the civil and political rights of political detainees is the prerogative of the Chief Executive.

Q: Will the ruling camp take democratization measures in a bid to create an atmosphere conducive to interpartisan negotiation of the constitutional amendment?

A: The peaceful transfer of government in 1988 and the DJP-proposed parliamentary cabinet system are the most important items on the program for democratic development. Besides them, the ruling camp will carry out, step by step, democratic measures such as the promotion of human rights and the local autonomy system.

Q: NDP President has been actively promoting a meeting with you. What is your position on the meeting of the representatives of the rival parties?

A: Such a meeting can be held at any time after the NDP settles its internal conflicts and returns to the constitutional debates. Then, I will first propose to have a meeting.

Q: What is the scope and boundary of the full powers given to you to break through the political situation involving the constitutional amendment?

A: President Chon manages the state affairs as the chief executive and I advise the President on political problems as a representative of the party. It (full power) means no less and no more than that.

Q: Voices for safeguarding the current Constitution had once been revived in the ruling camp late last year, when the constitutional debates were deadlocked. Your promise not to deal with the constitutional amendment unilaterally may be interpreted as indicating that the ruling camp will have to stick to the current basic law if it fails to realize the amendment by inter-partisan agreement... Is that true?

A: Don't make such an interpretation about my remarks. I meant that the DJP will revise the constitution through interpartisan negotiation.

Q: Do you mean that your party will not attempt to revise the Constitution through a vote showdown in the Assembly, even if it fails to reach a compromise with the NDP?

A: The DJP will not act on the constitutional amendment unilaterally.

Q: Do you think that striking a compromise with a major faction of the major opposition party can be called a bipartisan agreement?

A: All our party members follow the party line on the parliamentary cabinet system, though some of them raised objections to it in the decision-making process.

I believe that it is the same with the NDP. If the NDP officially declared it wanted to strike a compromise on the constitutional amendment based on the parliamentary cabinet system, couldn't be called a bipartisan agreement, though a considerable number of NDP members oppose it.

On Post-Chon Leadership

SK290035 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 29 Mar 87 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column]

[Text] A smile was the only answer of chairman No Tae-u of the ruling Democratic Justice Party to a question about his vision as possible post-chon Tu-hwan leader of the current ruling camp during a press conference he held in Kwangju yesterday.

The question was: "We are anxious to know your vision and political philosophy as a figure who will lead the ruling camp in retaining power. Would you enlighten us?"

But, the DJP chairman, the No. 2 post in the ruling camp, gave no clear answer. He just smiled, shaking his head.

On No's show of such a cautious attitude to a question concerning the transfer of leadership of the ruling camp, party spokesman Sim Myong-po interrupted, and told reporters, "Let's talk about it later."

Deputy secretary general Kim Tae-ho also joined Sim in helping No evade the question apparently proving the delicacy of No's present stature in the party following President Chon's delegation of full power to handle politics at a Chongwadae meeting Wednesday.

However, No appeared very bright all the way during the 30-minute press conference he held for the first time since being given full authority to handle political affairs, including constitutional amendment.

On NKDP, Reform

SK290012 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 29 Mar 87 p 1

[By Sin Hak-yim]

[Text] Kwangju — The leader of the Democratic Justice Party said here yesterday that the ruling party will not seek to pass its own draft amendment to the Constitution by majority force, excluding the major opposition New Korea Democratic Party.

DJP chairman No Tae-u said, "The ruling party will not deal with the constitutional amendment through interpartisan negotiation and compromise until the last moment."

No made the remarks in the first press conference here after he was given full power by President Chon Tu-hwan to negotiate the constitutional amendment last Wednesday. He came here to participate in the dedication of a newly built office building of the Cholla-namdo chapter.

No called upon the major opposition New Korea Democratic Party to settle its internal conflicts at the earliest possible date, prior to the resumption of the constitutional debate.

"The DJP will wait with patience until the opposition party settles its internal problems. But, considering the urgency of the constitutional amendment task, the DJP will not be able to wait indefinitely," the DJP chairman said.

"The opposition NDP knows such a situation better than us," said No. He, however, did not set a deadline.

No, who is now the undisputable No. 2 man in the ruling camp after the recent show of support by President Chon, said that the DJP will soon present diverse programs as the leading political force working for a constitutional amendment.

The DJP chairman indicated that the ruling party will pursue a compromise with a major faction of the major opposition NDP, as a unanimous inter-partisan agreement on a constitutional amendment remains unlikely.

"If the opposition NDP changes its earlier party line and comes to a compromise for the parliamentary cabinet system, couldn't it be called an interparty agreement, even though a considerable portion of its members oppose it," said No.

His remarks drew particular attention from political observers as a hint that the DJP may seek a compromise with the Sangdo-dong faction led by Kim Yong-sam.

As for a meeting with Kim Yong-sam, No said that he will negotiate with an official representative of the major opposition party. The mainstreamers led by Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung want to have Kim Yong-sam take the party presidency from Yi Min-u.

No said that he would meet with incumbent party president Yi Min-u or his successor, at any time to negotiate the constitutional amendment, after the NDP settles its internal dispute over the party leadership change and its strategy on constitutional amendment.

If the DJP judges that NDP has settled its internal conflict, I will be the first to propose a meeting with the NDP leader, said No.

As for the democratization measures, the DJP chairman said that the government party will carry them out step by step. He cited the implementation of the local autonomy system, the promotion of basic and civil rights of the people and the guarantee of the freedom of press and the measures the DJP will take.

The DJP chairman denied that President Chon has empowered him even to make political decisions on granting amnesty to political detainees and their political reinstatement.

Granting amnesty to political detainees are the prerogative of the Chief Executive, said No.

LEADERS SEND THANKS MESSAGES TO LAO COUNTERPARTS

BK271110 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Recently Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the LPDR, and Comrade Sisomphon Lovansai, acting chairman of the SPC of the LPDR, received a greetings message from Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State of the PRK; Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly; and Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the PRK Council of Ministers. The message reads:

We would like to express our most sincere and deepest gratitude for the warm greetings extended on behalf of the LPRP Central Committee, the SPC, the government, and the people of the LPDR on the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the establishment of the PRK.

Your best wishes for close friendship constitute a true token of the special relations between the parties, governments, and peoples of our two countries. These relations are being developed alongside the active development of the relations and militant solidarity among our three Indochinese countries. The message reflects important praise for the Cambodian people, who are currently building and defending their fatherland and are gradually advancing toward socialism.

The achievements recorded by our people in the past 8 years cannot be separated from the common victories of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam in their struggle for the common goal of national construction on the path of socialism.

The Cambodian party, government, and people express deep gratitude for the wholehearted support and assistance given by the party, government, and fraternal people of Laos to the Cambodian revolution.

We are profoundly pleased with the active growth and new qualitative development of the relations, militant solidarity, and all-round cooperation between the parties, governments, and peoples of our two countries as well as among our three countries in building socialism and defending their respective national independence, freedom, and territorial integrity, which can be touched by no enemy.

We take this opportunity to wish you and the Lao people, led by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, good health and new success in carrying out your 5-year economic plan and in fulfilling the Fourth LPRP Congress resolutions.

On this same occasion, LPDR Foreign Minister Comrade Phoun Sipaseut also received a message of thanks from Comrade Kong Korm, foreign minister of the PRK.

CHEA SIM GREETs NEW CHAIRMAN OF ALBANIAN ASSEMBLY

BK270741 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1146 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Phnom Penh, 26 Mar (SPK) -- Chea Sim, chairman of the PRK National Assembly, has sent a message of warm congratulations to Petro Dode, on the occasion of his election to the post of chairman of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. The message noted:

We have the firm conviction that under your clear-sighted leadership, the relations of fraternal friendship and fruitful cooperation between our two countries in general and between our two legislative organizations in particular will be further strengthened and developed each passing day for the common interest of our people and for the cause of peace, security, and social progress of mankind.

We wish you good health and greater success in carrying out your noble mission.

HUN SEN SPEAKS AT COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY MEETING

BK290802 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] The meeting to sum up the outcome of 1986 communications, transport, and postal work and set targets for implementation in 1987 ended on the afternoon of 27 March at the office of the minister of communications, transport, and posts following 3 days of active work. The closing ceremony was held in the presence of Comrade Hun Sen, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

During the 3-day session from 25 to 27 March, all participants attentively listened to the reports and addresses by a number of representatives from various municipal and provincial directorates, ministries, and offices throughout the country. They also discussed various weak points, strong points, and good experiences gained from the work in 1986 that can be used in carrying out work more effectively in the coming years. At the same time, the participants totally agreed with the targets for implementation in 1987 put forth by Comrade Tea Banh, alternate member of the party Central Committee and minister of communications, transport, and posts. All participants also warmly hailed the Waterway Transport Company and Kandal Province which received the Council of Ministers' 1986-90 laureate banners.

In his closing speech, Comrade Hun Sen exhorted all participants to enhance their sense of patriotism and strive to successfully implement the 1987 state plans with a lively sense of creativity. He said: First of all, it is imperative to improve security in the repair of roads and bridges and to strengthen the means of transportation -- railroads, land routes, and waterways -- which are the lifelines of our nation. Moreover, all provinces and municipalities must strive to expand communications lines in the countryside and to enhance the ability of the postal service to speedily dispatch letters, parcels, newspapers, and magazines reporting the party's propaganda to the localities.

The comrade advised everyone to improve control work and cooperation between the owners of goods and the service management, facilitate the transportation of and create a balance between incoming and outgoing goods, strive to safeguard national property, and enhance the sense of thrift.

MAURITANIA SUPPORTS CGDK'S APPEAL FOR SETTLEMENT

BK260116 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] On 16 March, His Excellency Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane, Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, warmly received the DK ambassador to Mauritania Hing Un, who conveyed His Excellency Vice President Khieu Samphan's message to the Mauritanian foreign minister. Hing Un informed his host of the CGDK's 18 February appeal calling on Vietnam and the Soviet Union to accept the CGDK's 8-point peace proposal. He also briefed His Excellency N'Diayane on the excellent situation of the Cambodian people's anti-Vietnamese struggle.

On this occasion, the minister of foreign affairs of Mauritania assured Hing Un of his country's full support for the just cause of the Cambodian people and CGDK. He said that the CGDK's appeal for a political settlement of the Cambodian problem according to the 8-point proposal is a very significant political plan in the search for a peaceful solution to the Cambodian problem. He also expressed satisfaction at the good development of the Cambodian people's struggle.

VOK COMMENTS ON NEED FOR CAMBODIAN UNITY

BK260756 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodia 0500 GMT 26 Mar 87

["Political commentary": "The Cambodian Affair"]

[Text] There is no other time like now for Cambodians to fulfill a most valuable duty for their nation's benefit. Currently, Cambodia is in the jaws of the Vietnamese tiger which is trying to annex Cambodia and exterminate all Cambodians. What is this duty of every Cambodian? And what should Cambodians first adopt to carry out this duty?

It is not a difficult or complex task. However, the question is whether Cambodians can do it or not. Is there any Cambodian who does not think that only unity among Cambodians is the important factor to advance toward getting independence for Cambodia? Can 7 million Cambodians win against Vietnam with its 60 million people if these 7 million Cambodians continue to adopt an intransigent attitude toward one another and strive to split themselves into groups and then into sub-groups for the sole benefit of their groups, cliques, and their own influence without considering the Cambodian nation's interest as a whole? Certainly no Cambodian dare say that it is a good thing to divide the Cambodian nation into small groups, which is the cause of our weakness.

It is with this in mind that the CGDK's three parties, despite their different ideologies and despite their being enemies in the past, have been compelled to unite or at least cooperate in the struggle for national liberation for the benefit of Cambodia and the Cambodian people. The past was certainly a fact. However, Cambodia's future is even more important. The Vietnamese enemy has a definite plan to split Cambodians. The Vietnamese always bring up the past to split Cambodians so that Cambodians are always in conflict with one another, hate one another, and remain split to make it easy for the Vietnamese to control and annex Cambodia, destroy the Cambodian race, and make Cambodia a Vietnamese state. However, are there still any ignorant Cambodians around? This is what each Cambodian should think about because it is a Cambodian affair.

VOK thinks that the CGDK's three parties, the Heng Samrin side, and Cambodians abroad should do their best to try to resolve the Cambodian issue and should not be lulled by flattery of Vietnamese foreigners who are trying to make Cambodians forget Cambodians and help the Vietnamese instead. This is what Cambodians should think about. Those Cambodians who let themselves be fooled by the Vietnamese have been too stupid and should be punished by the nation's history.

DELEGATION'S VISIT TO THAILAND REPORTED

Press Interviews Held

BK271229 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] On 26 March the high-level Lao and Thai technical teams continued their talks for a second day. The two sides discussed issues concerning tourism, trade fairs along the border, local-level meetings, and trade. Mutual understanding was reached on transportation; the exchange of artistic, literary, and sports activities; and the exchange of visits between students and instructors of the two countries.

After the meeting in the morning, the heads of the two delegations gave interviews to the press. Souban Salitthilat, head of the Lao delegation, rejected the groundless accusation made on the previous day by the spokesman of the Thai delegation and affirmed the Lao side's concern about the attention to the smooth settlement of the problem of three Lao villages. Meanwhile, he evaluated this meeting as an important step in the improvement and normalization of relations between Laos and Thailand. The two sides agreed to continue meetings and talks. The Lao side will invite the Thai delegation to Vientiane.

Meets With Prime Minister

BK280610 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Yesterday morning, Souban Salitthilat, deputy foreign affairs minister of the LPDR, paid a courtesy call on General Prem Tinsulanon, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand. On this occasion, Souban Salitthilat, head of our Lao delegation, conveyed the greetings and best wishes of Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the LPDR, to Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon and also to the Thai people.

On this occasion, the Thai prime minister said: I am pleased to see the Lao delegation's visit to Bangkok. The straightforward talks are good for the two fraternal countries which do not need any interpreter. The talks should continue. If both sides attentively make efforts, problems can be resolved. I would like to convey my respects and best wishes to Council of Ministers Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan.

Souban Salitthilat then made a brief statement on the meetings and talks between delegations of the two sides. He said: By speaking in a straightforward manner, the Lao side has aimed to promote mutual understanding. It has no other intentions. With regard to the remaining problems, consultations will be held to further discuss them. Souban Salitthilat continued: The Lao Government and people have always sincerely wished to maintain good relations with the Thai people. He invited a Thai delegation to continue talks with the Lao side in Vientiane at an appropriate time.

Accompanying Souban Salitthilat in paying a courtesy call on the Thai prime minister on this occasion was Khamphan Simmalavong, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the LPDR to the Kingdom of Thailand. Attending on the Thai side were Arun Phanuphong, adviser to the prime minister, the Thai ambassador to Laos, and spokesman of the government. Prasong Sunsiri, secretary to the Thai prime minister, also attended.

Souban Interviewed on Return

BK281458 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1400 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] On the afternoon of 28 March at 1830 [1130 GMT], the Lao high-level technical delegation led by LPDR Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat returned to Vientiane after concluding talks with a high-level technical delegation of the Government of the kingdom of Thailand. The Lao delegation left for Bangkok on 24 March at the invitation of the Thai Government.

On hand to welcome our delegation at the airport were First Deputy Foreign Minister Khamphai Boupha and many senior cadres concerned. At the airport Souban Salitthilat gave an interview to Lao journalists.

Regarding the question about the result of the talks between the Lao and Thai high-level technical delegations in Bangkok, he said:

[Begin Souban recording] The Thai and Lao evaluations of the meeting and talks are different due to the difference in each side's stand. But I am of the opinion that the talks were beneficial since each side expressed its own views on the problems it regards as fundamental that must be resolved in relations between our two countries. The Lao side proposed that the most fundamental problem to be resolved is the question of the three Lao villages -- Ban Mai, Ban Kang, and Ban Savang -- in Sayabourg Province. Regarding this question, I clearly told the Thai side that nearly 3 years have passed since 1984. Only 2 months and 10 days are short. Approximately, it is 9 kilometers from Ban Mai to the western border. Therefore, in the past 3 years Thailand has withdrawn its troops only 3 kilometers from the village a year. At present, Thai troops remain inside Lao territory within about 100 or 300 meters of the border. I have explained to the Thai side that when Thai troops have finished the 9-kilometer withdrawal to the western border at the end of this 3-year period, there will be no more Thai troops on Lao territory. That is why I called on the Thai military to make further efforts to withdraw approximately 5 meters a day from Lao territory as there are 2 months and 10 days before 6 June 1987 [allegedly the day Thai troops attacked and occupied the three villages]. So, I am of the opinion that if they really have the political intention to withdraw, the troop withdrawal should be completed before the 3d anniversary of the Thai attacks on the three Lao villages.

I proposed that the second problem to be resolved is the one mentioned in the 1979 communiques signed between the prime ministers of the two countries. One point in the communiques says that any direct or indirect interference in each other's internal affairs will not be committed. But the recent incident shows that the Thai side did send spies into Laos. At the same time, certain Thai organizations have made use of refugees or the exiled Lao refugees in Thailand to disturb the Lao side's tranquillity, thus interfering in the internal affairs of Laos. We regard this incident as a fundamental problem which must be resolved first since it involves the principle of respecting each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

In brief, with regard to the two problems, the Thai side tried to evade them. It maintained that the important issue is how we are going to exchange visits and conduct trade. I said that after the two problems are resolved, the remaining problems will automatically disappear.

In the course of talking about the two problems, I recalled the relations in the past 10 years and what has happened, particularly following the first round of talks in Vientiane. The Thai side was extremely unhappy with this question.

It would not be very enjoyable to discuss the fact that a Thai soldier was arrested after he had been sent here to carry out intelligence activities to disturb the people's happiness and peace. Some Hmong tribesmen and Lao citizens also did this. We have obtained evidence and witnesses. The Thai side said that with regard to this problem it may not be able to control all its people and asked the Lao side to consider whether it would be a personal affair. Or is it a systematic action? The Thai side only replied that it also has evidence after arresting Lao spies and agents. That is all it said.

Regarding other issues that are considered not promoting mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries, I raised the issue on the celebration of the so-called Thao Suranari or Nang Mo [Thai heroine who fought the Lao invasion led by Chao Anouvong of Vientiane in Thailand's Nakhon Ratchasima Province]. I informed the Thai side that while watching a Thai television program on this issue, Lao youths and people turned off their television sets and some immediately expressed indignation, because the story constitutes an insult to another nation. Thailand has the right to talk about its own history. But we maintain that it is inappropriate for Thailand to organize the celebration prior to the arrival of the Lao high-level technical delegation, since it says that it wants to improve friendly relations between the two countries. The Lao side or the Lao Government is also capable of retaliating on this issue as well. For example, it can organize a week of hatred for the occupation of Vientiane by Thai warlords led by [name indistinct] in 1827 during which they burned down Vientiane and took away the Lao people and their precious property. We are able to do this. But, at present the Lao Government is considering whether it should do this. The Lao Government maintains that if it organizes such a week, then it will cause hatred between the peoples of the two countries. That is why it has not done anything on this issue. We hope that the Thai Government will not pressure the Lao Government to take a retaliatory measure.

I also informed the Thai side that mass mobilization is our strong point. We mobilized the Lao people to hate French colonialists and the U.S. imperialists, because they came to oppress and exploit the Lao people and plunder their property. What will happen if we organize the week? What will happen to the hatred between the peoples of the two countries? I asked them to consider this. The Thai side said that they would like to express regret on this issue. It was a certain private organization that organized the celebration. I promised to report on the feeling of the Lao delegation, government, and people to the Thai Government.

In addition, we mentioned many other issues which are of interest to the Lao side. Particularly, we mentioned the causes of the unhealthy relations between Laos and Thailand. On the contrary, why are relations between Laos and other neighborly countries, such as Vietnam and Cambodia, good? I recalled the history of relations among the people of the three Indochinese countries starting from 1930 -- the year of the founding of the Indochinese Communist Party. Since this year how many times has Vietnam withdrawn its troops from Laos and Cambodia? This shows the sincerity of the Vietnamese people who want to have relations in an independent manner and respect each other. For this reason we harbor no suspicion on our cooperation with Vietnam. But, toward Thailand which calls our country a fraternal one and our people blood brothers, incidents have taken place frequently. On some occasions, they closed the border. Sometimes they were good with us and signed agreements and exchanged visits. Sometimes they checked out transit goods. What was worse was the sending of troops to seize the three Lao villages and the sending of spies and agents into Laos. How can our people be assured that Lao-Thai relations are truly fraternal ones? How can we be completely assured that these relations can be promoted and developed? We cannot assure ourselves of these things. For this reason, to make the relations fundamentally good, it is necessary to resolve the fundamental problems prior to settling other issues. [end recording]

When asked will there be future meetings since there was disagreement during the talks, Souban Salitthilat replied:

[Begin Souban recording] As I said, the disagreement was that the Thai side wants to resolve minor problems while we, the Lao side, want to settle the fundamental problems which are the key to the settlement of minor problems. However, through the talks, I was of the opinion that the Thai side also desires to resolve the problems. Yet, they have their own difficulties, because the Foreign Ministry officials who attended the talks did not have the full authority. They requested they report to the government on any new problem concerning the relations. They had to consult with this and that party.

During my courtesy call on His Excellency Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon, he said that if the officials at the present level do not have enough authority to resolve problems, further efforts should be made at a higher level to meet each other and solve problems. Regarding this, I am of the opinion that the Thai Government also wants to continue the meetings and talks to jointly resolve problems. I think this is good, because meetings and talks are not yet cut off. It is also the Thai Government's desire to continue the talks, a desire which the Lao Government shares. If the second round is not successful, let us have the third or fourth rounds. This is why I have been authorized by the Lao Government to invite the head of the Thai technical delegation to come to Vientiane for the third time. [end recording]

Asked to express his opinion on the general public which says that there was no progress after the Bangkok talks, Souban Salitthilat replied:

[Begin Souban recording] The Thai side said that there was no progress. Our opinion is that actually there was no progress since we did not reach any agreement. But, what is good is that the Lao side raised all the problems it wanted to raise and informed the Thai people as well as the Lao people of the objectives of the Lao Government in resolving problems with the Thai Government and in promoting and developing the relations between the two countries so they can be called neighborly, fraternal countries. [end recording]

Radio Comments on Talks

BK281302 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 28 Mar 87

["Talk": "To Achieve Success in Improving Lao-Thai Relations"]

[Text] Implementing the agreement reached at the meeting held in Vientiane from 27 to 29 November 1986 between the high-level technical governmental delegations of the LPDR and the Kingdom of Thailand, a high-level technical delegation of the LPDR Government led by Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat left Vientiane on 24 March for Bangkok, capital of the Kingdom of Thailand, for further talks and discussions to resolve the remaining problems between the two countries.

Following the conclusion of the meeting and talks between the two delegations in Vientiane in the latter part of November last year, the atmosphere of bilateral relations has been constructive in many aspects, thus satisfying the peoples of the two countries as it conforms with their aspirations for normalization of the fraternal, neighborly relations between Laos and Thailand.

The LPDR has always persisted in its policy to seek friendly relations and peaceful coexistence with the Kingdom of Thailand on the basis of the Lao-Thai joint communiques signed in 1979.

Everyone still remembers that after the invasion and nibbling attacks launched by Thai troops by order of Athit Kamlang-ek against three Lao villages in Paklai District, Sayaboury Province, in mid-1984 -- an incident that caused the most serious effects in the history of Lao-Thai relations -- the Lao side sent its delegation to hold talks with the Thai side in Bangkok to peacefully resolve the problem and to preserve fine relations with the Kingdom of Thailand. Nevertheless, it is regrettable that this good intention of the LPDR did not receive a positive response, because some bad groups of people and some individuals in Thailand tried to obstruct the success of the talks.

In the new period effort has been made to restore the bilateral relations through talks held in Vientiane late last year between Lao and Thai high-level technical delegations, during which many problems remained unsolved. However, there was a condition favorable to the continuation of talks -- the Thai delegation's affirmation that the Lao-Thai joint communiques of 1979 were the basis for the normalization of the bilateral relations.

While an atmosphere of mutual understanding was taking shape, some bad elements in Thailand, who once obstructed the normalization of bilateral relations, fearful of losing their interests gained from the imperialists and other international reactionary forces, have striven to create many incidents to sabotage the good atmosphere, with a view to maintaining tension and confrontation between Laos and Thailand as well as between the Indochinese and ASEAN countries. They have repeatedly conducted provocations and challenges and launched slanderous propaganda campaigns accusing Laos and Vietnam of sending spies to collect intelligence information and conduct sabotage activities in Thailand and charging Laos with supporting the Thai people's revolutionary movement and its effort to overthrow the Thai Government and with smuggling drugs to Thailand. Meanwhile, they have inherited the goal of the pan-Thailand doctrine, sent spies networks in Laos, and supported, fed, and trained the exiled Lao reactionaries for sending them back to disturb the tranquility and carry out sabotage activities in the capital of Vientiane and other areas.

Faced with such provocations, the Lao side has tried to practice restraint and not to use violence to counter them, with a view to coexist peacefully and fraternally with the Kingdom of Thailand.

Regarding the current talks between Lao and Thai high-level technical delegations, the Lao side has attached great importance to them since both sides can have an opportunity to further discuss the remaining problems. In his statement made after his arrival in Bangkok, Souban Salitthilat said that he would try his best to improve and develop the Lao-Thai relations on the basis of the two Lao-Thai joint communiques of 1979.

The Lao and Thai peoples are anxiously waiting to see that the talks proceed constructively with mutual understanding so that both sides will achieve the goal of normalizing bilateral relations. These are the common aspirations of the Lao and Thai peoples. To materialize these aspirations, let the two peoples heighten their vigilance and unite as one and singlemindedly to oppose the acts of the bad people so to peacefully coexist forever.

LAO DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WINDS UP VISIT

1st Day Talks

BK260135 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Mar 87 pp 1, 2

[Text] Laos yesterday threatened to use "retaliatory measures" to counter what it claimed to be espionage activities supported by Thailand in collusion with the United States to undermine its security.

The charge, made by Deputy Laotian Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat after the first day of the two-day talks with Thai authorities, cast an ominous cloud over attempts to improve the relations between the two neighbouring countries.

Souban made the accusation to reporters at a press conference almost right after his talks with Thai delegates, led by Dr Arun Phanuphong, adviser to the prime minister, at the Foreign Ministry.

He said Thai-trained Laotian agents were sent to infiltrate Laos and conduct sabotage activities, including the bomb explosion in front of the Soviet Cultural Centre during Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Vientiane recently.

These espionage activities have cast doubts on the sincerity of the Thai side in improving the Thai-Lao ties, the said.

The Laotian minister, who arrived here Tuesday with a 12-man delegation, also accused the US of using Hmong hilltribe refugees to subvert the Laotian Government.

"Wang Pao, who has US citizenship, has close connection with the Laotian refugees here. This shows that America is trying to destroy my country," he said. Wang Pao commanded the CIA-financed army of the Hmong hilltribesmen that fought communist forces between 1960s and 1970s.

Before the talks yesterday, Souban paid a 30-minute courtesy call on Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila. Sitthi touched upon the overviews of the bilateral ties and recent developments along the Thai-Laotian border including increased trade activities and people contacts between the two neighbouring countries.

Souban also conveyed a message from Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut to Sitthi.

During the meeting with Arun, Souban raised the issue of three disputed villages of Ban Klang, Ban Mai and Ban Sawang opposite Utradit and said it is the fundamental problem which needs to be resolved before the real improvement of the two nations' relations can materialize. He urged Thailand to show "good faith" by withdrawing its troops and claims to the areas. Thailand said repeatedly that there were not Thai troops in the areas.

Souban also signaled out the recent celebration of an 18th Century Thai heroine, Thao Suranai (Khunying Mo), who defeated Lao invaders, as "serious insult to the pride of Laos and its people."

He also threatened to organize an anti-Thai campaign against Thailand.

Using the Thai atrocities committed during its invasion of Laos in the 18th Century.

Souban also made the following points:

-- On the Thai-US War Reserve Stockpile: The arms and ammunition depots inside Thailand threaten the security of neighbouring countries and can trigger arms race among countries in the region.

-- On the eight-year Kampuchean problem: An international conference should be held to end the conflict.

Souban's accusation drew quick response from the Thai Foreign Ministry. Sarot Chawanawirat, the ministry's spokesman, said that they were "groundless" and were isolated cases "without great substances."

The talks between Thai and Laotian delegations yesterday covered mainly political issues which are factors obstructing improvement in the Thai-Laotian ties. They are the three villages and security aspect of the bilateral relations.

Souban yesterday said Laotian authorities recently captured a Thai agent, whom he identified as Maj Kriangkrai Rattanrangsi. He said the 32-year-old "spy was attached to the Fifth Infantry Regiment but did not say what kind of activities he was engaged in.

He also said a "Hmong spy" was also arrested inside Laos. He was one of the Laotian refugees from a refugee camp in Pakchom District of Loei in northeastern Thailand, he said.

In countering Souban's charge about the alleged Thai-trained spies, spokesman Sarot said Thai authorities have also captured "many" Laotian spies in Thai territory, including those who mingled with refugees in the camp.

Arun, who leads the Thai team to the two-day talks, told Souban Thailand has never "beat a drum" about such matters, Sarot said.

The spokesman quoted Arun as telling Souban that the Thai Government has no policy to interfere with internal affairs or violate national sovereignties of any countries.

Arun also urged the Lao side to consider whether the espionage activities, as claimed by Souban, have been carried out by some private groups or the Thai Government.

"While Laos still has no measure to control its 3.7 million population to prevent some of them from crossing the border into Thailand, how can the Thai side control our more than 50 million citizens?" he quoted Arun as saying.

He said Thailand has evidence that Laos has been lending support to "Phak Mai," the pro-Soviet faction of the Thai communist insurgents. "However, we never consider it a serious matter which could hurt our ties," said the spokesman. An intelligence source estimated that there are about 400 armed Phak Mai members.

Sarot said the Thai authorities have documentary evidence that the Indochinese communists want to take over 16 northeastern provinces of Thailand.

The Thai side also accused the Laotian authorities of exporting heroin, opium and marijuana. Sarot said Thailand has evidence and information that some Laotian state enterprises were involved in narcotics export.

Souban denied the allegations and said Vientiane does not support narcotics production. However, he admitted that some private groups in Laos might be involved in drug trafficking.

The current visit of the Laotian delegation to Bangkok followed the earlier trip of a Thai team, led by Arun, to Vientiane in November last year. Both sides will today continue their talks at the Foreign Ministry.

Laos Urges Cambodia Talks

BK260139 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] Laos yesterday urged that Thailand and ASEAN hold talks with the Indochinese states to solve the Kampuchean conflict.

Laotian Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat issued the call yesterday -- the only regional issue discussed -- when Thai and Laotian officials met for the first round of the two-day talks focussing mainly on bilateral issues.

Mr Souban said later that Laos believes the time has come to solve the situation through international negotiations.

He reiterated the statement of the Indochinese foreign ministers conference calling for a meeting between the Indochinese states and ASEAN, excluding the Khmer Rouge.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Sarot Chawanawirat meanwhile quoted Prime Minister's adviser Arun Phanuphong as telling the Laotians that Vientiane should look at the cause of the conflict, namely the invasion by Vietnamese forces into Kampuchea.

Vietnam has the third largest army in the world yet it complains that it is the fourth poorest country, Mr Arun said.

He said Thailand is not the cause of the conflict while ASEAN does not want to become involved because a resolution should be left for the Khmers to decide.

If the Indochinese states and ASEAN meet and manage to come up with a solution, the Khmers may not be satisfied and fighting would resume.

Mr Arun questioned why Laos continued to raise the Khmer issue and other isolated cases which makes a systematic attempt at solving bilateral problems difficult.

In an apparent diplomatic dig at the Laotians, Mr Arun questioned why Laos continued to mention the Indochinese Federation when the term, in geographical reality, should include nations such as India, China, Thailand, Burma, Malaysia and Singapore.

He said that perhaps that when Laos refers to Indochinese Federation, it should really be saying the three countries, namely Laos, Vietnam and Kampuchea, that used to be under the colonial rule of the French.

Thai Minister Comments on Talks

BK270958 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Asked this morning by a reporter at the Interior Ministry his opinion on the outcome of the talks between the Thai and Lao delegations in Bangkok during the past 2 days, which were not very fruitful, Interior Minister General Prachuap Suntharangkun said that the negotiations should be carried out step by step. He added that both sides must try to create more understanding between the two countries.

He noted that such talks can also create mutual understanding and good relations which must be gradually developed because it involves the foreign policies of the two countries. However, both sides must intensify their efforts to create mutual understanding so that relations between the two countries can be further improved.

Prem Receives Souban

BK270943 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] In the Ivory Reception Room of Government House this morning, Deputy Lao Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat and his 4-man party paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon.

The Lao delegation is paying a visit to Thailand from 24 to 28 March during which it is holding the second round of talks with the Thai side on relations between the two countries. The first round of talks was held in Vientiane in November 1986.

Also present at today's meeting on the Thai side were the prime minister's adviser Arun Phanuphong, Secretary General to the Prime Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, and spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office Michai Wirawaithaya.

Fifteen minutes after the meeting, Arun Phanuphong briefed reporters as follows:

[Begin Arun recording] The Lao delegation conveyed its best wishes from the Lao prime minister to his excellency the prime minister and the Thai people and briefed the prime minister on the outcome of the talks which have been conducted in a frank manner so that both sides can understand each other. The problems which the two sides cannot agree upon at this time will be brought up for further consideration.

The Lao delegation told his excellency the prime minister that Laos sincerely wants good relations with Thailand and has invited a Thai delegation to go to Vientiane for further talks at an appropriate date to be agreed upon by the two sides.

The Lao side reaffirmed that if both sides are determined to turn to each other, there is no problem which cannot be solved. [end recording]

Thai Foreign Ministry Statement

BK271430 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 27 Mar 87

[27 March statement given by Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sarot Chawanawirat on the meeting of the Thai and Lao delegations in Bangkok -- recorded]

[Text] We are rather disappointed that no progress has been made. We were very sincere and hopeful before the meeting was held. You must have noticed that our deeds, not only our words, have proved our intentions. We reduced the list of goods whose export to Laos was banned to only 61 items, tried to create a good atmosphere, and refrained from waging propaganda against Laos since the delegations of the two countries met 3 months ago. Moreover, we have also tried to open more opportunities for economic and cultural cooperation. We accorded a hospitable welcome to the Lao cultural troupe when it came here and are planning to send a Thai arts troupe to perform in Laos during the upcoming Songkran festival.

All our efforts seem to produce no results. It was just like trying to clap with one hand. You need two hands to produce the sound. Talks and meeting of this nature cannot achieve anything if both sides do not cooperate. Even economic issues upon which we thought the two countries could cooperate did not receive any attention from the Lao delegation during the meeting. We proposed economic and trade cooperation and other easy joint programs such as the opening of makeshift markets which can be set up once or twice a week in the border towns of the two countries along the Mekong River.

These proposals are easy to carry out and can help promote understanding and contacts between the peoples of the two countries. But the Lao delegation simply said it had to bring all issues back for its government to consider. As I said in the interview on the first day of the meeting, the success of the talks depend on the political will [preceding two words in English] of the two countries.

I believe that Thailand and the Foreign Ministry have done their best to demonstrate our political will [preceding two words in English]. We are therefore disappointed that they did not reciprocate for our gesture. Every issue is linked to the security problem. The only issue they paid attention to was the problem of the three villages -- which should not exist at all because we have confirmed on several occasions and confirm here again that no Thai soldiers are stationed on Lao soil.

Our countries are close neighbors. The prime minister himself pointed out that Thailand and Laos are bound historically and culturally. If they have no political will [preceding two words in English] to try to find the way to solve such small issues, we cannot face them. Take other neighboring countries like Burma and Malaysia for example. Of course, we have problems to solve. But the way we talk and contact each other is different. We consult each other. When Malaysia built a border fence inside our territory, we informed them. When they knew that had made a mistake, they corrected it. But in the case of Laos, the people should be able to judge the way they want to solve the problems. Propaganda alone does not work.

In any event, I would like to conclude by saying that the Thai Government still wants to revive and further strengthen relations and contacts between the two countries, particularly in economic and trade areas because we realize that our two countries will have to coexist. There is nothing better than good understanding and relations. The Lao delegation might have made up its mind even before it came here that it did not want such results. Therefore, it behaved as if it did not want to talk to the Foreign Ministry.

Souban Calls Talks 'Success'

BK290238 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Mar 87 pp 1, 3

[Text] Laotian Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat said yesterday Laos was building a highway to Vietnam and negotiating with the Heng Samrin regime for the use of part of the Mekong River which runs through Kampuchea as a passage to the sea.

He claimed the attempts were aimed at escaping economic pressure from Thailand.

In a press conference before he left Dong Muang Airport for Vientiane, Mr Souban said the construction of Highway No. 9 linking Vientiane to Da Nang in Vietnam would be completed this year.

He said the part of the Mekong River which runs through Kampuchea wasn't very rocky and ships could reach the land-locked country all year round if permission was granted by the Heng Samrin regime.

Mr Souban described his visit to Thailand as a success because "we gave our points of view so we could investigate causes to solve the problems."

He said the reason behind the failure of his talks with his Thai counterpart Dr Arun Phanuphong earlier this week was the three disputed border villages in Uttaradit Province where he said Thai troops were still based.

It is almost three years Thai troops trespassed into the three villages on June 6, 1984 and Thai troops are still between 100 and 300 metres inside the villages at present," he charged.

He said Laos was ready to cooperate with Thailand to solve the problem and he hoped that it would be solved before it was three years old. "If Thai troops step back only five metres a day out of these villages, the problem would be solved before it becomes three years old."

He added that he had invited Dr Arun to visit Laos and expressed hope he would meet Dr Arun again in Vientiane to try to solve this problem.

"I came here because I wanted to put an end to this problem but our failure to tackle it doesn't mean that we have lost."

Touching on an accusation made by Information Department Director-General Sarot Chawanawirat that the Laotian delegation had no political will which led to the failure of the talks, Mr Souban said sincerity wasn't just about talking.

"We have been friends with many neighbouring countries such as Burma and Kampuchea so why can't we have good relations with Thailand, which is considered a brother country," he said.

Concerning allegations by Mr Sagot that Laos wasn't interested in negotiating for the expansion of trade and economic links between the two countries, he said this wasn't true as Laos was very interested in doing so because it would improve the standard of living of Laotians.

Mr Souban, however, argued that trade between the two countries had to be on an equal basis without political interference.

He charged that Thailand had tried to put economic pressure on Laos in an attempt to force the country to surrender. Moves taken by Thailand included the closure of border checkpoints, enforcement of the law to prevent the export of strategic goods to Laos and hoarding, he said.

Editorial Views Visit

BK270109 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Mar 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Angry Words Better Than No Words At All"]

[Text] Despite some optimistic predictions, Round One of the Thai-Lao talks was hardly a matter of "kissing and making up." Round Two yesterday, judging by all the recriminations aired, was not much better. Many have attributed the lack of progress to the fact that the atmosphere had been soured by earlier Laotian attempts to play "favourites." There may have been other contributing factors, but of course there is no concrete proof -- except for the surprising speed with which the talks disintegrated. While they did not quite reach the shouting level, charges and countercharges were flying throughout the sessions and neither side was afraid to make their real of imagined feelings public.

To most people, therefore, it would seem that the negotiations were a bit of a waste of time. Even though Dr Arun Phanuphong and Mr Souban Salitthilat agreed beforehand that the talks would keep away from any "sensitive issues" and concentrate only on those which both sides could agree upon, the two sides knowingly or unknowingly at once slipped into a confrontational position. It is strange but true that the country with which Thailand has just about everything to share except ideology, should happen to be the one of the hardest to deal with.

On deeper reflection, however, it is also a natural thing for both sides to proceed the way they did. For there was really nothing to hide, if sincerity was the name of the game. To be fair to both, if there is a tiger to be faced somewhere, both sides should do it now rather than run the risk of finding themselves together with a crocodile at the same time, in addition to the tiger. But most of all, the predicament has been brought about because the ties between the two countries run so deep. And like the currents of the Mekong River, nothing can really change them. With the affinity that is so natural, both sides are disappointed after all the allegations that each has been cheating on the other. In the case of the Lao, the Thai feeling is that the sister has now run off with a lover whom she does not deserve or who does not deserve her. In the case of the Thais, the Lao feeling is that the big brother has not really been acting like one, but is instead always ready to play the role of bully.

At stake now is not just the improvement of Thai-Lao relations. On the contrary, this particular episode in the negotiations may not be as bad as it seems on the surface. For diplomacy is usually a process where one starts with the easiest issue and then works up little by little, mostly through a complicated and often vitriolic process involving the scoring of points off each other. But this time around, both Dr Arun and Mr Souban have apparently reversed the process -- by first being brutally honest to each other, and then trying to work from the hardest issues on down. If they cannot resolve all the issues now, the experience will nevertheless come in useful when the future meetings are held.

CHAWALIT ANNOUNCES POSTPONEMENT OF LAOS VISIT

BK280209 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] Army Commander-in-Chief General Chawalit Yongchaiyut said yesterday he will postpone his visit to Laos until Vientiane makes clear its position toward Thailand.

Gen Chawalit said he also has to obtain permission from the Supreme Commander, Defence Minister and the Foreign Minister before making the visit.

The Laotian Government had invited Gen Chawalit to visit Laos, hopefully before the present visit to Bangkok by Laotian Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat. However, Gen Chawalit delayed his trip at the Foreign Ministry's request.

Asked about Mr Souban's statement that it was the wish of Gen Chawalit to visit Laos, the army chief retorted: "How could he read my mind?"

"It is true that I want to visit Laos to build up understanding between the two countries, but such a visit has to be in accordance with the general atmosphere."

Speaking on the situation at Chong Bok Pass in Ubon Ratchathani Province where Thai troops are trying to evict intruding Vietnamese forces, Gen Chawalit said the Thai side has suffered may casualties but is determined to push the intruders out of Thai territory.

COMMITTEE CALLS FOR LIBERALIZING LAO TRADE

BK270121 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] The House Committee on Foreign Affairs yesterday called on the Thai Government to liberalize trade with Laos by lifting all control over strategic goods currently banned from exporting to Laos.

Committee chairman Bunchu Rotchanasathian told reporters that the two countries should also open the common border to facilitate bilateral trade.

The ban on the exports of strategic goods should be abrogated because the authorities cannot effectively check the smuggling of the goods into Laos, said Bunchu who is leader of the Community Action Party (CPA).

If the government cannot control the smuggling, it should legalize it because the legalization would make it possible to check the actual trade volume and if any problem arises in the future, the administration can work out effective measures to cope with it afterwards, he said.

The government has cut back on the list of strategic goods from 273 items to some 61 to promote the border trade. However, it has resolved against opening up more border points pending the outcome of talks to normalize bilateral relations. There are now three border passes along the entire common border with Laos.

Bunchu said that the government should ease other trade restrictions, including the limit on the volume of bilateral trade and the regulation requiring Thai exporters to apply for registration at the Foreign Ministry to do business with Laos.

He also called for an improvement in the transport infrastructure to facilitate the trade between the two countries and urged the government to promote Thai investment in Laos.

The committee invited senior officials and academics from related government agencies, including the National Security Council (NSC) and the National Defence College to a hearing yesterday. The inquiry into the border trade question was held in the light of a visit here by a Lao delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat.

Both sides traded accusations after the first round of talks on Wednesday.

PEACE GROUP RETURNS FROM VISIT TO LAOS

BK270119 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] A delegation representing a peace organization in Thailand has returned from a one-week visit to Laos during which its members also met Phoumi Vongvichit, the acting president of the communist country. Dr Khothom Ariya, vice chairman of the so-called Project for Peace and Development, led the Thai team to discuss a cultural and education exchange programme with Laos.

In their talks with Phoumi, they discussed issues relating to traditional relations between the two countries "with a view to further develop the mutual understanding, peaceful co-existence and good neighbourly ties between the two peoples...", KPL.

Phoumi told the Thais that Laos wants to see peace in this region and the world.

The Thai team visited Laos on March 16-22 as guest of the Laotian authorities. Their trip was in return to a visit here by a Laotian cultural troupe last December.

Khothom said his peace group plans to send a Thai cultural troupe to visit Vientiane and Luang Prabang during the Songkran festival next month.

AIR FORCE JETS STRIKE SRV POSTS INSIDE BORDER

BK260145 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Mar 87 p 2

[Text] Thai forces used air strikes, artillery and ground troops to attack Vietnamese positions on two hills more than a kilometre inside Thai territory, causing Vietnamese casualties, Army secretary Maj-Gen Naruedon Detradit said yesterday.

In the border clashes four Thais were killed including one civilian.

Maj-Gen Naruedon said fighting began on Tuesday when Thai troops moved towards positions held by the Vietnamese since January in the Bok Pass between Thailand and Kampuchea.

The secretary said F-5 fighter-bombers and heavy artillery were used against the Vietnamese positions on two of the three hills held by the Vietnamese more than a kilometre inside Thai territory.

He said the Thai attacks were part of an operation to force the Vietnamese to withdraw from Thai territory they have occupied since January.

He did not have a precise casualty estimate for the Vietnamese, but said he believed their losses were "considerable."

Later, another army spokesman said four Thais were killed in fighting along the border on Tuesday, including three soldiers killed in a landmine explosion in the Bok Pass.

In one clash, Thai troops fought at close range with a small unit of Vietnamese troops encountered near one of the disputed hills overlooking the pass, the spokesman said.

Two Thai soldiers were wounded in the clash, he said, while the Vietnamese left blood trails behind as they retreated.

Further south in Buri Ram province, Vietnamese artillery shells killed one Thai villager in Ban Sao Tho 12, and wounded two others, he said.

CHAWALIT SAYS VIETNAMESE ESCAPE ROUTES SEALED

BK280211 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Mar 87 p 2

[Excerpt] Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, said yesterday that Thai troops have sealed the escape routes of Vietnamese troops occupying Thai territory since January and are ready to close in.

Gen Chawalit said hundreds of Vietnamese soldiers have dug in on two hills about 1.609 kilometres inside Thailand near Chong Bo, Pass connecting Thailand and Kampuchea.

He said several Thai soldiers have been killed trying to regain control of the strategic border hills but declined to give an exact number.

Gen Chawalit said Thai troops have closed the exit routes to the rugged border pass, in Ubon Ratchathani Province, and are expected to move in on the Vietnamese-occupied hills.

In addition to the ground operation, heavy artillery and F-5 fighter-bombers have intruded into the area several times before in the Chong Bok area but Vietnam, as it did on Friday, denied any territorial violation. [passage omitted]

MORE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED

Ho Chi Minh City

BK271310 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Friends, you are now invited to listen to our introduction of the list of candidates for election in Ho Chi Minh City:

-- Electoral Unit 1, comprising Cu Chi and Hoc Mon Districts, which is to elect four deputies from six candidates:

1) Huynh Ngoc Dien, district party committee member, head of an agricultural cooperative of Phuoc Hiep village, Cu Chi District, and Seventh National Assembly deputy; 2) Nguyen Thi Dinh, CPV Central Committee member, Council of State member, Vietnam Women's Union chairwoman, and Seventh National Assembly deputy; 3) Le Thi Hua, member of permanent committee of Hoc Mon District's collectivized peasants association; 4) Nguyen Khai, senior colonel, member of Vietnamese Writers' Association's Executive Committee; 5) Nguyen Van Do, senior colonel, deputy commander concurrently chief of staff of the city's military command; 6) Tran Thi Ut, party chapter secretary of Tan My Agricultural Cooperative No 2 of Binh My village, Cu Chi District.

-- Electoral Unit 2, comprising the 1st and 5th precincts, which is to elect four deputies from seven candidates:

1. Dinh Thi Gai, member of the city party committee, shop manager of Binh Trieu insecticide factory, and labor heroine; 2) Bui Quang Thao, member of the city party committee, deputy director of the city police service, and Vietnamese People's Armed Forces hero; 3) Pham Khuong, agricultural engineer, headmaster of the Trung Phu work-study general high school; 4) Pham Hoang Minh, worker at the Cho Quan electric power plant; 5) Vinh My, doctor of economics, MA in law, the city People's court judge, and the city peoples councillor; 6) Nguyen Thi Ngoc Nga, chief of shop No 4 of Saigon ready-made clothing factory; 7) Nguyen Huu Tho, lawyer, vice chairman of the Council of State, and chairman of the SRV National Assembly.

-- Electoral Unit 3, comprising the 10th and 11th precincts, which is to elect four deputies from six candidates:

1) Pham Hung, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Seventh National Assembly deputy; 2) Nguyen Thi Rang, alias Sister Ba Tri, director of the city food company, and labor heroine; 3) Chu Pham Ngoc Son, doctor in chemistry, professor, head of the chemistry faculty of the city university, member of the VFF Central Committee, chairman of the city's science and technology association, and a city people's councillor; 4) Mrs Ngo Ba Thanh, Pham Thi Thanh Van, doctor in law, member of the National Assembly's judiciary committee, member of Vietnam's Jurists Association Executive Committee, vice chairwomen of Vietnam Women's Union, member of Vietnam Peace Committee Presidium, member of the VFF Central Committee, and vice chairwoman of the city VFF Committee; 5) Nguyen Duc Thong, head of the Tien Dat high-grade electronics cooperative of 3d precinct; 6) Do Tan Viet, head of the Lien Hiep engineering cooperative of 10th precinct, member of the city people's council.

-- Electoral Unit 4, comprising Phu Nhuan and Go Vap precincts, which is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Huynh Van Hoang, professor, MA, head of the city's polytechnic school; 2) Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong: doctor in medicine, deputy director of the obstetrics hospital and deputy head of the obstetrics faculty of the city university of medicine, member of the Vietnam Women's Union Central Committee, and Seventh National Assembly deputy; 3) Le Hong Quan, party committee member of the industrial service, a production team head of the city's electromechanical corporation; 4) Nguyen Van Tri, shop manager of the Thang Cong textile plant; 5) Le Van Triet, member of the CPV Central Committee, deputy secretary of the city party committee, vice chairman of the city people's committee, and Seventh National Assembly deputy.

-- Electoral Unit 5, comprising Tan Binh District, which is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Ngo Thi Ngoc Anh, head of a production team at textile plant No 5, Hong Gam Textile Corporation; 2) Phan Van Khai, member of the CPV Central Committee, deputy secretary of the city party committee, chairman of the city people's committee; 3) Le Thi Kim Khanh, chemical engineer, head of the laboratory of the X-751 factory of the General Technical Department of the Ministry of Defense; 4) Nguyen Thi Kim Oanh, shop manager of the textile detachment of Cuu Long ready-made clothing factory of the industrial service; 5) Priest Phan Khac Tu, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Catholic Solidarity Committee, member of the city VFF Committee, and a member of the city people's council.

-- Electoral Unit 6, comprising the Binh Chanh and 6th Precincts, which is to elect four deputies from six candidates:

1) Mai Van Bay, Standing Committee member of the city party committee, member of the VCTU Secretariat, secretary of the city trade union federation, and Seventh National Assembly deputy; 2) Lu Minh Chau, member of the CPV Central Committee, general director of the Vietnam State Bank; 3) Tran Bach Dac, director of the Thu Duc agricultural engineering factory of the engineering company, the ministry of metal and engineering; 4) Nguyen Thi Ben, head of production team of the textile dyeing company, Hong Gam Textile Corporation; 5) Ha Giang, member of the precinct party committee, director of the 6th precinct export company; 6) Han Truong Vu, member of the city VFF Committee.

-- Electoral Unit 7 of 3d Precinct is to elect two deputies from four candidates:

1) Bonze Thich Minh Chau, Dinh Van Nam, doctor in Buddhism, vice chairman and secretary of Vietnam Buddhist Association Central Committee, Seventh National Assembly deputy; 2) Nguyen Xuan Hong, musician, deputy secretary of Vietnam Musicians Association, member of Vietnam Literature Association Central Committee, general secretary of the city music association; 3) Nguyen Quang Khanh, member of Vietnam Writers Association, general secretary of the city writers' association; 4) Ton Le Thuan, member of the city party committee, deputy head of the Central Committee Department of Literature and Culture, head of the city party committee's Literary and Cultural Department, member of Vietnam Musicians Association's Executive Committee, deputy general secretary of the city musicians' association, and Seventh National Assembly deputy.

-- Electoral Unit 8 of 8th Precinct is to elect two deputies from four candidates:

1) Nguyen Chau, head of the Dong Tam engineering cooperative of Go Vap District, member of the city people's council; 2) Nguyen Minh Chau, member of the CPV Central Committee, colonel general commander of 7th Military Region; 3) Vo Thi Thanh Thuy, head of the Quan Quan rubber cooperative of 11th Precinct; 4) Tran Thien Chi, engineer, deputy head of the city's handicraft and artisan industry cooperative.

-- Electoral Unit 9 of Binh Thanh District is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1. Nguyen Ngoc Ha, doctor in medicine, vice chairman of the Central Committee-Department of Overseas Vietnamese, head of the city's Overseas Vietnamese Committee, director of the city's export development center, and Seventh National Assembly deputy; 2) Nguyen Thi Nu, member of Vietnam Women's Union Central Committee, vice chairwoman of the city's industry and trade liaison committee, director of the Duc Tan joint tile enterprise, and member of the city people's council; 3) Nguyen Xuan Oanh, doctor in economy, in charge of the city's economic research office, chairman of the city Economic Science and Management Association; 4) Nguyen Quyen Sinh, head of Vietnam Tourism General Department; 5) Pham Van Thanh or Pham Hiep, member of the VFF Central Committee, member of the city VFF committee, vice chairman of the Industry and Trade Committee No 11, director of the Pham Hiep tire recapping joint corporation of the Communications and Transportation Service.

-- Electoral Unit 10 of Thu Duc District is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Mai Thi Hue alias Sau Ly, member of Nha Be District party committee, head of Tan Quy agricultural cooperative No. 1, standing committee member of the village women's union, member of the Tan Quy Village Peasants Association, Nha Be District; 2) Tu Le, outstanding artist, actor of Cuu Long Opera Troupe No 2; member of Vietnam Stage Association's Executive Committee, member of the city's literature and arts association; 3) Tran Hoang Quan, alternate member of the CPV Central Committee, minister of higher and vocational education; 4) Le Thi Suong or Ba Van, alternate member and vice chairwoman of the city peasants association; 5) Nguyen Anh Tuyet, architect, deputy general secretary of the city's association of architects, member of Vietnam Architects Association Secretariat.

-- Electoral Unit 11 of Nha Be and Duyen Hai Districts, and 4th Precinct is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1. Pham Van Bay, engineer, standing committee vice chairman of the city's science and technology association; 2) Nguyen Thanh Lam, member of the city party committee, MA, director of Saigon port, and Seventh National Assembly deputy; 3) Nguyen Hieu Liem, director of Vinh An enterprise of pig raising corporation No 1 of the city industry service; 4) Dang Van Than, alternate member of the CPV Central Committee, head of the General Postal Department, and Seventh National Assembly deputy; 5) Ly Chanh Trung, member of the VFF Central Committee, vice chairman of the city's science and technology association, member of the Vietnamese-Soviet Friendship Association Central Committee, vice chairman of the city's Vietnamese-Soviet Friendship Association, and Seventh National Assembly deputy.

Haiphong Municipality:

-- Electoral Unit 1, comprising Cat Hai District, Bach Long Vi island, and Le Chan, Ngoc Quyen, and Hong Bang Districts, is allowed to elect four deputies from six candidates:

1) Nguyen Van Mau, a district party committee member, director of the Cat Ba fishing enterprise, Cat Hai District; 2) Nguyen Ba Hinh, member of the municipal party committee, director of the municipal industrial office, and member of the municipal people's council; 3) Truong Quang Duoc, assistance secretary of the municipal party committee and chairman of the municipal people's committee; 4) Pham Duy Khuong, party committee standing member and deputy director of the Cat Ba fishing enterprise, Cat Hai District; 5) Nguyen Quyet, secretary of the CPV Central Committee, colonel general, head of the VPA General Political Department, and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly; 6) Do Quoc Sam, alternate member of the CPV Central Committee, holder of a masters degree in engineering science, and head of the State Capital Construction Department.

-- Electoral Unit 2, comprising An Hai and Thuy Nguyen Districts, is allowed to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1. Nguyen Xuan Hoa, member of the Haiphong port party committee and leader of Detachment 5 truck drivers team, unloading zone No 1; 2) Vu Thi Lien, a party committee member of the Ngo Quyen District handicraft sector and leader of the electromechanical team, Song Lo machinery cooperative; 3) Doan Duy Thanh, member of the CPV Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of foreign trade, and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly; 4) Nguyen Thi Thuan, alternate member of the Mai Chan District party committee, a party chapter assistant secretary, member of the administrative committee and leader of the Dan Tien cooperative in Le Chan District; 5) Nguyen Binh Sieu, a party committee member, leader of a boat engine repair team of Workshop 4, Bach Dang Shipyard.

-- Electoral Unit 3, comprising Vinh Bao and Tien Lang Districts, is allowed to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1. Nguyen Duc Ha, leader of Production Team 4 of the Co An village agricultural cooperative in Vinh Bao District; 2) Do Thi La, member of the Tam Da village agricultural cooperative inspection board, Vinh Bao District; 3) Nguyen Thi Ly Phuong, member of the Ngo Quyen District party committee and deputy director of the Haiphong municipal cookies and candies enterprise; 4) Tran Van Trung, a party committee member and deputy director of the Haiphong machine tools factory; 5) Dang Hoi Xuan, holder of a Masters Degree in Medical Science, minister of public health, and deputy to the Seventh National Assembly.

-- Electoral Unit 4, comprising Kien An and Do Son Districts, is allowed to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Pham Thi Cuong, deputy headmaster of the Thai Xuyen High School, Ngo Quyen District; 2) Tran Nang Huong, an assistant party chapter secretary and deputy headmaster of the Nang Khieu high school; 3) Bui Duy Khu, an engineer specializing in electric conductors, secretary of the Haiphong power office; 4) Hoang Duc Nhi, alternate member of the CPV Central Committee and minister of supply; 5) Tho Hau Son, alternate member of the municipal party committee and secretary of the party committee of the federation of animal husbandry-related technical support service enterprises.

Song Be Province:

-- Electoral Unit 1, comprising Phuoc Long, Dong Phu, Tan Uyen, and Thuan An Districts, is allowed to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Tran Van Chau, colonel, commander of the provincial military command; 2) Tran Ngoc Khanh, deputy secretary of the provincial party committee and chairman of the provincial people's committee; 3) (Va Ranh), chairman of the Phuoc Long District VFF Committee, deputy to the Seventh National Assembly, a member of the (Chai Ma) ethnic minority group; 4) (Dieu H'Rot), chairman of the Phuoc Long District women's union, a member of the (Chau Ma) ethnic minority group; 5) Pham Van Trung, Lieutenant Colonel, assistant chief of state of the provincial military command.

--Electoral Unit 2, comprising Loc Ninh, Binh Long, and Ben Cat Districts and the Thu Dau Mot provincial city, is allowed to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Duong Xuan An, general secretary of the Vietnam Confederation of Trade Unions; 2) Nguyen Than Binh, worker of the Dau Tieng rubber corporation; 3) (Dieu Gia), secretary of the Loc Hoa village party chapter, Loc Ninh, a member of the (Suong) ethnic minority group; 4) Le Thi Nuoi, worker of the Dau Tieng rubber corporation, a deputy to the Seventh National Assembly; 5) (Dieu Yao), chairman of the Loc An village people's committee, Loc Ninh, a member of the (Suong) ethnic minority group.

Lai Chai Province:

-- Electoral Unit 1, comprising Phong Tho, Muong Te, Xin Ho, and Muong Lay Districts and Lai Chai provincial city, is allowed to elect two deputies from four candidates:

1) Lo Van Ung, deputy secretary of the provincial party committee and chairman of the provincial people's committee, a member of the Thai ethnic minority group; 2) Lo Phu Ma, vice chairwoman of the Muong Te District women's union, a member of the Ha Nhi ethnic minority group; 3) Vo Phi Nhu, an alternate district party committee member and deputy head of the Muong Te District education office, a member of the Nhi ethnic minority group; 4) Dieu Chinh Tue, standing member of the provincial party committee, a member of the Thai ethnic minority group.

-- Electoral Unit 2, comprising Dien Bien, Tuan Giao, and Tua Chua Districts, is allowed to elect two deputies from four candidates:

1) Nguyen Huy Mat, a district party committee standing member and head of the Thanh An cooperative in Dien Bien District; 2) Pham Ngoc Hieu, deputy head of the Than Phong cooperative in Dien Bien District; 3) Giang A Pao, assistant secretary of the provincial party committee in charge of mountainous areas, deputy to the Seventh National Assembly, and member of the Hmong ethnic minority group; 4) Giong A Vang, standing member of the provincial party committee and vice chairman of the provincial party committee, a member of the Hmong ethnic minority group.

Vung Tau-Con Dao Special Zone has one electoral unit which is allowed to elect two deputies from four candidates:

1) Nguyen Van Hoi alias Nguyen Van Linh, director of the marine products office; 2) Do Quoc Hung alias Do Tri Hieu, standing member of the special zone party committee and vice chairman of the special zone people's committee; 3) Dao Quang Phu, member of the special zone party committee and director of the industrial office; 4) Luu Quang Tri, standing member of the special zone party committee and head of the economic section.

Ha Nam Ninh, Other Candidates

BK281330 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Friends, you are now invited to listen to our introduction of the list of candidates for election to the 8th National Assembly:

Ha Nam Ninh Province

-- Electoral Unit 1, comprising Nam Dinh City, is to elect two delegates from four candidates:

1) Dinh Gia Huan, standing member of the provincial party committee and chairman of the provincial people's committee; 2) Vu Dinh Lai, member of the city party committee and head of the 19 March weaving cooperative in Nam Dinh city; 3) Tran Thai, assistant secretary of a party committee and director of the Thanag Loi knit-wear enterprise in Nam Dinh city; 4) Tran Thi Thu, a party committee member and leader of Team 4 of the Nam Dinh joint textile plant.

-- Electoral Unit 2, comprising Xuan Thuy District, is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Tran Van An, deputy head of the Gia Long village marketing cooperative in Xuan Thuy District; 2) Dang Quoc Bao, head of the CPV Central Committee's Science and Education Department; 3) Luong Xuan Lac, a party committee standing member and head of the Xuan Tien village agricultural cooperative in Xuan Thuy District; 4) Do Huu Su, director of the Xuan Thuy brick and tile enterprise; 5) Nguyen Thi Than, member of the CPV Central Committee, vice chairwomen of the Vietnam Women's Union, and deputy to the 7th National Assembly.

-- Electoral Unit 3, comprising Hai Hau District, is to elect two deputies from four candidates:

1) Ngo Xuan Ba, leader of a salt production team of the Dai Thang cooperative in Hai Dong village, Hai Hau District; 2) Dinh Quang Dung, a district party committee member and secretary of the Hai Chinh village party committee; 3) Nguyen Manh Ha, leader of a loom repair team of the Sao Vang cooperative in Hai Anh village, Hai Hau District; 4) Vu Mao, member of the CPV Central Committee and first secretary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee.

-- Electoral Unit 4, comprising Nam Dinh and Nghia Hung Districts, is to elect four deputies from six candidates:

1) Nguyen Quoc Ai, a district party committee member and head of the Phuong Thanh weaving cooperative in Phuong Dinh, Nam Ninh District; 2) Tran Xuan Do, a party committee standing member and head of the Nghia Dong village agricultural cooperative in Nghia Hung District; 3) Vu Duy Liem, a district party committee member and head of a Nam Ninh District machinery repair station; 4) Nguyen Niem Sinh, acting head of the Central Federation of Small Industry and Handicraft Cooperatives; 5) Mai Chi Tho, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau, minister of interior, and deputy to the 7th National Assembly; 6) Tran Van Thi, assistant leader of the Water Conservancy Team, No 202 Nghia Lam village, Nghia Hung District.

-- Electoral Unit 5, comprising Tien Son and Tam Diep Districts and the Tam Diep town, is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Dang Bao Anh, a party committee member, doctor, and head of the Kim Son District hospital medical affairs office; 2) Tran Thi Du, a town party committee standing member and head of the Dai Dong rush mat cooperative in Phat Diem town, Tien Son District; 3) Vu Minh Doai, a party committee assistant secretary and director of the Ninh Binh food enterprise; 4) Pham Minh Hac, alternate member of the CPV Central Committee, minister of education, and deputy to the 7th National Assembly; 5) Tran Thi Lien, engineer, head of the pineapple processing plant of the Dong Giao State Farm No 1.

-- Electoral Unit 6, comprising Hoang Long, Hoa Lu, and Gia Vien Districts and the Ninh Binh provincial city, is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Dinh Van Be, an alternate district party committee member and head of the Gia Lam village agricultural cooperative in Hoang Long District; 2) Le Dien, a party committee secretary and director of the Ninh Binh machinery enterprise; 3) Le Van Thai, a district party committee member and head of the Duc Long village agricultural cooperative in Hoang Long District; 4) Dang Chi Truc, an alternate member of the provincial party committee and director of the Ha Nam Ninh engine enterprise; 5) Nguyen Trong Xuyen, member of the CPV Central Committee, Major General, and Commander of the 3d Military Region.

-- Electoral Unit 7, comprising Y-Yen and Vu Ban Districts, is to elect three deputies from four candidates:

1) Nguyen Thi Bi, a corporation party committee member and head of the Y-Yen District food store; 2) Tran Van Nhan, major general, commander of the Air Defense Corps; 3) Bui Xuan Son, standing member of the provincial party committee, secretary of the Y-Yen District party committee, and deputy to the 7th National Assembly; 4) Rui Chi Tu, a party committee standing member and head of the Yen Dong village agricultural-trade-credit cooperative in Y-Yen District.

-- Electoral Unit 8, comprising Binh Luc and Ly Nhan Districts, is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Vu Ban Ba, standing member of the provincial party committee and senior accountant of the Dao Ly village agricultural cooperative in Ly Nhan District; 2) Nguyen Huu Duong, a district party committee member and head of the Binh Luc District public health office;

3) Tran Quang Ngoc, member of the provincial party committee and director of the provincial agricultural office; 4) Tran Thi Tan, doctor and head of the provincial mother care and family planning station; 5) Tran Cong Thin, standing member of the provincial party committee, colonel, and commander of the provincial military command.

--Electoral Unit 9, comprising Duy Tien, Kim Bang, and Thanh Liem districts and the Ha Nam city, is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Nghiem Xuan Chien, a district party committee standing member and head of the Chau Giang village agricultural cooperative in Duy Tien District; 2) Truong Ton Ha, a city party committee member and director of the 1 May shipbuilding enterprise in Ha Nam Nanh; 3) Nguyen Hong Ky, a party committee secretary and director of the Ha Nam machinery enterprise; 4) Nguyen Thi Xuan, worker of the Thien Khe lime corporation; 5) Bui Thi Duyen, leader of Road 21a construction team, Overland Route Construction and Management Enterprise No 1 of Ha Nam Ninh.

-- Electoral Unit 1, comprising Ninh Son, Ninh Phuoc, and Ninh Hai Districts, and Phan Rang-Thap Cham city, is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Nguyen Trung Hau, deputy secretary of provincial party committee and chairman of the provincial people's committee; 2) Luong Huu Khuoc, head of Thuan Hai joint cooperative of handicrafts and artisan industry; 3) Nguyen Loan, director of the Thap Cham sugar refinery; 4) Mau Thi Bich Doanh, party committee member and vice chairman of the people's committee of Ninh Son District, Ra-clay ethnic people; 5) Nguyen Van Thuan, provincial party committee member and director of the provincial maritime products service.

-- Electoral Unit 2, comprising Tuy Phong, Bac Binh, Ham Thuan Bac, Ham Thuan Nam, and Phu Quy Districts, is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Tran Minh Chanh, chief of Ma Lam rice seed farm; 2) Vu Cong Luan, chief of the emulation committee of the provincial Federation of Trade Unions; 3) Ba Nguyet, secretary of the education trade union of Bac Binh District, Cham ethnic people; 4) Hoang Bich Son, party Central Committee member and head of the Central Committee Department of Foreign Affairs; 5) Truong Nghiep Vu, vice chairman of the Thuan Hai provincial VFF Committee and Seventh National Assembly deputy.

-- Electoral Unit 3 of Ham Tan, Tanh Linh, and Duc Linh Districts, and Phan Thiet city, is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Pham Hoai Chuong, Standing Committee member of provincial party committee, colonel, commander of provincial military command; 2) Nguyen Thi Thanh Hai, deputy secretary of provincial Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union; 3) Trinh Kim Nho, member of the provincial people's committee and director of provincial construction service; 4) Le Viet Teo, member of Duc Linh district party committee and head of Me Pu agricultural cooperative; 5) Nguyen Tan Trinh, party Central Committee member, minister of maritime products, and Seventh National Assembly deputy.

Ha Bac Province

-- Electoral Unit 1 of Son Dong, Luc Ngan, and Luc Nam Districts is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Hoang Van Chinh, Standing Committee member of district party committee, colonel, commander of provincial military command; 2) Chu Duc Hien, Standing Committee member of district party committee, major, commander of Son Dong District Military Command; 3) Ban Sinh Kim, district party committee member, secretary of Bao Dai village party committee of Luc Nam District, Dao ethnic people; 4) Hoang Van Sau, agricultural engineer of Luc Ngan District agricultural office, San Diu ethnic people; 5) Duong Vien, member of the party's Culture and Ideology Bloc and Presidium member of the Central Committee Department of Vietnam Culture and Arts Unions, and general secretary of Vietnam Plastic Art Association.

-- Electoral Unit 2 of Lang Giang and Yen Dung Districts, and Bac Giang city, is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Bach Cong Hinh, deputy secretary of party committee and chairman of the people's committee of Lang Giang District; 2) Luong Thanh Huan, party committee member and party chapter secretary of trade union, chief shop manager of Ha Bac oil pressing factory; 3) Nguyen Van Ky, deputy secretary of Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union of the Urea fertilizer section, second chemical shop, Ha Bac nitrogenous fertilizer factory; 4) Mai Thuc Lan, deputy secretary of provincial party committee and chairman of provincial people's committee; 5) Bui Phung, colonel general, vice minister of defence, and Seventh National Assembly deputy.

-- Electoral Unit 3 of Hiep Hoa, Hiep Yen, Tan Yen, and Yen The Districts, is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Ha Quang Du, second secretary of Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee, Tay ethnic people; 2) Nguyen Thi Luat, chief of production team of Dong Muoi unit, Yen The forest; 3) Nghi Quoc Phu, secretary of Dai Hoa village party committee, Tan Yen District, Seventh National Assembly deputy; 4) Nguyen Thi Thuy, party chapter member, chief of chemical team No 1, Viet Yen District food processing factory; 5) Nguyen Ngoc Tuan, alternate member of district party committee, chief of Tam Hiep agricultural cooperative, Hiep Hoa District.

-- Electoral Unit 4 of Tien Son and Yen Phong Districts, and Bac Ninh city, is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Nguyen Huy Du, Presidium member of the Central Committee Department of Vietnam Literature and Arts, general secretary of Vietnam Musicians Association, vice chairman of Vietnamese-Indian Friendship Association, and Seventh National Assembly deputy; 2) Nguyen Thi Linh, member of the city women's union Executive Committee, member of Bac Ninh city VFF Committee, member of the Quyet Tien lime cooperative's management board, and member of the Dap Cau city ward people's council; 3) Ngo Thi Loi, district party committee member, deputy director of Yen Phong District hospital; 4) Nguyen Thi Nam, standing party committee member and deputy chief of agricultural cooperative of Tuong Giang village, Tien Son District; 5) Nguyen Xuan Sac, doctor of Bac Ninh city hospital.

-- Electoral Unit 5, of Gia Luong, Thuan Thanh, and Que Vo Districts, is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Tran Thi Cuc, district party committee member, sugar and wine shop manager of Thuan Thanh paper mill; 2) Nguyen Ba Cu, district party committee member and chief of Cao Duc cooperative of Gia Luong District; 3) Nguyen Viet Dung, chief officer of the National Assembly and the Council of State, and Seventh National Assembly deputy; 4) Nguyen Van Mon, district party committee member and chief of Thanh Khuong agricultural cooperative, Thuan Thanh District; 5) Bui Thi Son, technician of Ha Bac post office and Seventh National Assembly deputy.

Long An Province:

-- Electrical Unit 1, comprising Duc Hue, Duc Hoa, Ben Luc, and Thu Thua Districts, is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Nguyen Thi E, a district party committee standing member and chairwoman of the Ben Luc District VFF Committee; 2) Le Van Dy, member of the CPV Central Committee, holder of an M.A. degree, head of the Chemical General Department, and Seventh National Assembly deputy; 3) Tran Thi Thua, alternate member of the provincial party committee and assistant secretary of the Thu Thua district party committee; 4) Le Quang Tham, assistant secretary of the provincial party committee, chairman of the provincial people's committee, and Seventh National Assembly deputy; 5) Tran Thi Thuyen, a district party committee standing member and head of the Duc Hao District civilian proselyting section.

-- Electoral Unit 2, comprising Vam Co, Can Duoc, and Can Giuoc Districts, is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1) Nguyen Thi Kim Anh, head of the Can Duoc District agricultural office; 2) Nguyen Van Ap, standing member of the provincial party committee and commander of the provincial military command; 3) Nguyen Van Chinh, member of the CPV Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and head of the State Inspection Commission; 4) Tran Van Lech, alternate member of the provincial party committee and standing member of the provincial Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union; 5) Nguyen Thi Trang, a district party committee member and chairwoman of the Van Co District women's union.

-- Electrical Unit 3, comprising Tan Thanh, Moc Hao, and Vinh Hung Districts and the Tan An city, is to elect two deputies from four candidates:

1) Ly Thi Nguon, a city party committee standing member and head of the Tan An city propaganda-education section; 2) Nguyen Van Thanh, member of the provincial party committee and vice chairman of the provincial VFF Committee; 3) Nguyen Thi Thuy Van, deputy head of the Tan Thanh District educational office; 4) Le Thi Yen, a district party committee member and clerical member of the Moc Hao District people's committee.

SON LA PROVINCE has one electoral unit which is to elect four deputies from eight candidates:

1) Luong An, assistant secretary of the provincial party committee, chairman of the provincial people's committee, and member of the Thai ethnic minority group; 2) Lo Thi Ba, head of the Xuyen Nam cooperative, Co Noi village, Mai Son District, member of the Thai ethnic minority group; 3) Giang Thi Du, member of the provincial party committee and deputy head of the provincial ethnic affairs section, Seventh National Assembly deputy, member of the Hmong ethnic minority group;

4) Vi Van Giam, a party committee member, deputy head of the Kim Chung cooperative inspection board, Xuyen Khoang, Yen Chau District, member of the Xinh-mun ethnic minority group; 5) Van A Ho, doctor, So La provincial polyclinic, member of the Hmong ethnic minority group; 6) Dinh Van Thuan, standing member of the provincial party committee, colonel, commander of the provincial military command, member of the Muong ethnic minority group.

Tien Giang Province

-- Electoral Unit 1 of Cai Be District is to elect two deputies from four candidates:

1. Le Thi Thanh Mai, deputy secretary of Cai Be district party committee; 2) Luong Le, deputy secretary of party committee and general director of Tien Giang Joint Engineering Corporation; 3) Nguyen Van Trong, alternate member of provincial party committee and deputy director of Tieng Giang water conservancy service; 4) Phan Luong Truc, standing committee member of provincial party committee and commander of provincial military command.

-- Electoral Unit 2 of Cai Lay District is to elect two deputies from four candidates;

1) Tran Van Hau, member of Cai Lay town's Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union's Executive Committee; 2) Nguyen Tan Luc, deputy secretary of district party committee and chairman of Cai Lay District people's committee; 3) Tran Thi Kim Phuong, party chapter secretary and chief of provincial mothers' protection and birth planning station; 4) Phan Minh Thanh, deputy secretary of provincial party committee, chairman of provincial people's committee, and seventh National Assembly deputy.

-- Electoral Unit 3 of Chau Thanh District and My Tho municipality is to elect three deputies from five candidates:

1. Nguyen Thi Thanh Ha, party chapter secretary and vice headmaster of level two teachers' school of Tien Giang; 2) Tran Chi Nam, provincial party committee member and secretary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union of Tien Giang Province; 3) Huynh Tan Phat, vice chairman of the Council of State, chairman of the VFF Central Committee Presidium, and seventh National Assembly deputy; 4) Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu, provincial party committee member, vice chairwoman of the provincial people's committee, and seventh National Assembly deputy; 5) Lu Van Chuyen, director of Tien Giang pineapple factory.

-- Electrical Unit 4 of Cho Gao, Go Cong Tay, and Go Cong Dong Districts is to elect four deputies from six candidates:

1) Nguyen Thi Hoa, Standing Committee member of district party committee and chairwoman of Go Cong Dong District VFF Committee; 2) Vo Van Linh, party chapter member and chief of agriculture-industry-trade credit cooperative of Minh Nhi, Go Cong Tay District; 3) Do Tan Minh, Standing Committee member of district party committee in charge of the agricultural bloc of Go Cong Tay District; 4) Truong Cong So, Standing Committee member of provincial party committee and director of provincial police service; 5) Tran Minh Phung, deputy secretary of party committee and deputy director of polyclinic of Tien Giang Province; 6) Tran Huu Phuoc, standing committee member of party committee and director of animal husbandry joint enterprise of Tien Giang Province.

ARMY PAPER ON THAI 'SLANDER' BORDER 'PROVOCATIONS'

OW271739 Hanoi VNA in English 1452 GMT 27 Mar 87

["Army Paper on Thai Slander and Military Provocations" -- VNA headline]

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 27 -- QUAN DOI NHAN DAN today holds the ultrarightists in the Thai Administration fully responsible for the present tense situation along the Thai-Kampuchean border.

The paper says:

Repeatedly in recent days, Thai troops have continued violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. Aircraft of the L-19, A-37 and F-5 types of the Thai Air Force on many occasions violated Kampuchea's airspace, making many reconnaissance flights over the common border area between Kampuchea, Laos, and Thailand, the Preah Vihear Temple, Anlong Veng, Phnom Kinh Kouk and Smath Deng....every day, Thai troops fired from 700 to 1000 artillery rounds on Hills 715, 1271 and 971 and the areas of Odar, Sodar and Phnom Phcho in Kampuchea.

"Particularly serious, an A-37 from Thailand bombarded Hill 508, 12 km inside Kampuchean territory. Yet, the Bangkok rightists's mass media on March 22 reported that Kampuchea and Vietnam had violated Thailand's sovereignty and were "occupying" hills 82, 408 and 500.

"With this slander campaign, the Thai ultrightists want to divert public opinion in Thailand from the present infighting in the Thai Administration, particularly among the military and political parties.

Moreover, they scheme to draw the world's attention to the so-called "Kampuchea issue" and support Thailand in its criminal designs.

"The forcible resettlement of 250,000 Kampuchean refugees into camps of the Pol Potists near Kampuchea border is aimed at creating a shield for the genocidal criminals. The new military provocations by the Bangkok administration are actually aimed at securing a corridor for the intrusion of Khmer reactionaries into Kampuchean territory and preparing for new drives of sabotage activities in the coming monsoon."

QUAN DOI NHAN DAN stresses:

"The Vietnamese people and their Armed Forces resolutely support the correct and unswerving stance of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and demand that the Thai Administration stop all its military provocations against the Kampuchean people.

The Bangkok administration must bear full responsibility for all the consequences of their hostile acts against Kampuchea."

HUNGARIAN CHURCH DELEGATION VISITS VIETNAM

Meets Pham Van Dong

OW270101 Hanoi VNA in English 1447 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 26 -- A delegation of the Hungarian State Office of Churches led by its president, Secretary of State Imre Miklos, has paid a week-long friendship visit here as guest of the Vietnamese State Commission for Religions.

While here, the guests toured a number of localities and met with representatives of different religions.

On the morning of March 26, the delegation was warmly received by Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong. The reception was also attended by Nguyen Thanh Chonh, head of the host commission and Hungarian ambassador to Vietnam Bola Benyei.

The Hungarian guests left here later in the day.

Meets Nguyen Thanh Chonh

LD271204 Budapest MTI in English 0707 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi, March 27 (MTI) -- A delegation, headed by State Secretary Imre Miklos, chairman of the State Office for Church Affairs, paid a one-week visit to Vietnam. Imre Miklos held talks with Nguyen Thanh Chonh, chairman of the Commission for Religious Affairs, and met senior representatives of Vietnamese churches.

Imre Miklos also held talks with Phan Minh Thanh, head of department at the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam. On Thursday the Hungarian delegation met Pham Van Dong, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The Hungarian delegation has left Vietnam.

PEOPLE'S FRONT OFFICIAL ASSESSES INDOCHINA VISIT

LD271031 Budapest MTI in English 1933 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi, March 26 (MTI) -- Robert Ribanszki, secretary of the National Council of the Hungarian Patriotic People's Front, vice president of the Hungarian Solidarity Committee, gave a statement to the Hanoi correspondent of MTI, following his visits to Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos.

"Our exchange of views was useful since we were able to make an onsite study of the work of the people's front organizations in the three countries of Indochina, matured in three decades of hard armed and political struggle," said Robert Ribanszki.

"Despite the differing conditions we were able to discover many common features in political specifics with our Indochinese partner organizations: These are identical basic principles in the policy of alliance which is the main guideline of the leading parties here too. The people's front organization of Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos today seek the road to renewal and updatment, responsibly taking a share in the democratization of society, and in a more efficient implementation of the leading role of the party. They also spoke sincerely about their problems with a mind to changing outlook, and inquired about Hungarian experience.

"Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea are all-multi-nationality countries, and in the latter two the Buddhist Church has a traditionally greater role. The people's fronts endeavour to draw in the broadest strata of society to participate in the building work, and what is particularly important here, into solving tasks of national defense. We also found that our partner organizations in Indochina play a major role in the peace movement. They sincerely wish that relations with China become normalized as quickly as possible, and that disputed issues of southeast Asia be resolved in a just manner. The People's Front offers a good framework for fruitful cooperation between the Socialist state and the churches," said Robert Ribanszki.

NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA PRAISES RELATIONS WITH SRV

OW260038 Hanoi VNA in English 0703 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 24 -- Vietnam has always been a great encouragement to and an example for the Nicaraguan and the world people in the struggle to defend national independence, freedom, peace and social progress, said President Daniel Ortega while receiving the new Vietnamese ambassador to Nicaragua, Le Duc Cang.

President Daniel Ortega highly valued the results of the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam and expressed his belief that the Vietnamese people will successfully implement the resolution of the congress.

The Vietnamese ambassador expressed gratitude to the Nicaraguan people for their support for the Vietnamese people's national construction and defence. He reaffirmed Vietnam's persistent solidarity with the Nicaraguan people in their just struggle for defending national independence and sovereignty.

AQUINO GIVES BACKING TO ANTICOMMUNIST GROUP

BK291338 Hong Kong AFP in English 1330 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Davao, Philippines, March 29 (AFP) -- President Corazon Aquino gave her official backing Sunday to a supposedly unarmed anti-communist group now flourishing in the southern Philippines, saying they were essential to protect the people from leftist and rightist extremists.

Her spokesman Teodoro Benigno told a news conference meanwhile that a top rebel leader in Davao, Froilan Maureal, pledged alliance before Mrs. Aquino and vowed "not to join any subversive organization or any lawless group."

Mr Maureal, 27, is the deputy secretary general of the banned Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) in Davao del Norte Province. He represented the insurgents on a regional committee that monitored the 60-day cease-fire that ended in February, Mr Benigno said. He quoted the rebel leader, who is in the custody of Davao del Norte bishop Wilfredo Manlapaz, as saying that he had decided to surrender because of "internal contradictions within the leadership" of the communist movement.

At a campaign rally for her Senate candidates here, Mrs. Aquino said: "I want to tell you today that I am happy that Governor Douglas Cagas is using people power to safeguard our people, and they are not using arms." Mr Cagas, the governor of nearby Davao del Sur, initiated the Nakasaka, an anti-communist group armed with long, blunt knives that conducts patrols to protect rural villages from inroads by the Communist New People's Army.

Local Government Secretary Jaime Ferrer has advocated the spread of the group to other parts of the country following its success in Davao Del Sur, although human rights advocates have opposed the idea, saying that it could spawn more human rights violations from self-styled paramilitary groups.

"I firmly believe that we need to be united. We need to protect our people against the left and against those in the right," Mrs. Aquino said.

Security men swarmed around the enclosed stage where she spoke before some 7,000 supporters. The rally was held at a seaside park near the Agdao shanty town where the armed Alsa Masa anti-communist group is based.

Official sources said that prior to her speech, Mrs. Aquino met with various groups in this rebellion-torn city, including leaders of the controversial Alsa Masa. Local police commander Lieutenant Colonel Franco Calida said Mrs. Aquino had a separate meeting with Alsa Masa leaders Rolando Cagay and Richard Sardina at the airport before she left, but refused to say what the meeting was about. "It's not worth mentioning. It's only for our consumption," he said.

"Many of those in the left want to topple Cory's government. We also have those from the right who also want to do the same thing," Mrs. Aquino said, but added: "We outnumber them." The centrist Mrs. Aquino ordered government troops last week to score "a string of honorable military victories" against leftist rebels and rightist coup plotters, a move seen as an abandonment of her conciliatory policy.

AQUINO QUESTIONS OPPONENTS' SILENCE IN MARCOS ERA

HK280856 Hong Kong AFP in English 0855 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] San Jose, Philippines, March 28 (AFP) -- Philippine President Corazon Aquino said Saturday that opposition candidates do not deserve to be elected to Congress because they were silent when the people were fighting the "dictatorship" of her deposed predecessor.

"You will be approached by both (parties) saying they believe in democracy. We should ask ourselves who is really telling the truth," Mrs. Aquino told a crowd of 3,000 people in front of the town hall of this farming town on the central island of Mindoro.

"Remember what they did when we had no democracy. Did they protest when we were under the dictatorship?" she asked, referring to the 20-year regime of strongman Ferdinand Marcos who was toppled in a popular uprising last year. Mrs. Aquino did not name names, but she was apparently referring to a wing of the opposition dominated by supporters of Mr. Marcos.

The other opposition faction is led by former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, who helped install Mrs. Aquino to power in a military revolt after breaking a long alliance with Mr. Marcos. Three former Aquino allies are on Mr. Enrile's ticket. Mrs. Aquino has been campaigning nationwide for her handpicked candidates to the May 11 elections for the Senate and the House of Representatives.

RAMOS DENIES ACCUSATION OF ROLE IN COUP PLOTS

HK290821 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 29 Mar 87 pp 1, 5

[Text] Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Fidel V. Ramos dared yesterday fugitive Air Force Brig. Gen. Jose Zumel to undergo investigation "to clear himself."

In a press statement released at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday, Ramos also denied Zumel's accusation that the chief of staff was "hatching two separate plans to grab power."

Zumel, who is in hiding for his alleged participation in a failed coup last January, made the accusation Friday through one of the morning dailies. He was also linked by a high Government official to the bomb explosions at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) last week.

Zumel also reportedly said that Army chief Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Canieso was planning his own coup. He has reportedly vowed to come out soon with documents supporting his allegations and clearing himself.

AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] spokesman Col. Honesto Isleta, who said he talked to the Army chief yesterday morning, said that Canieso was ignoring Zumel's charge.

"If (Zumel) is really a good officer, as he claims, it is his duty to present himself before the investigating board or to any responsible officer," Ramos said, "so that he can be dropped from the Absent Without Leave (Awol) list, returned to military control, and (take) the opportunity to clear himself."

Ramos also said that he advised Zumel on Jan. 23, four days before the sixth aborted coup attempt since November, "to refrain from any involvement in any activity inimical to the unity of the AFP."

Ramos ordered the arrest of Zumel and three other officers last Jan. 29 in connection with their alleged roles in the coup, but they have not yet been arrested.

Isleta said that the military had sighted Zumel in Paranaque, and Col. Rolando Abadilla, one of the four wanted officers, in various hotels in Metro Manila recently.

He said, however, that the military would prefer the officers to surrender "because their treatment would be different if we arrest them."

Meanwhile, Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo said the bombs used in the PMA blast were "exactly the same" as those used by the April 6 Liberation Movement.

"But of course, there is no connection," he said. The April 6 Movement had campaigned to destabilize the Marcos government in the late 70s by bombing key public installations.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SAYS WAKAOJI RELEASED

HK290701 Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 29 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Kidnaped Japanese businessman Noboyuki Wakaoji has been released after four months of captivity in a still undisclosed place in Tagaytay City, sources in military intelligence said last night.

Wakaoji, a ranking executive of the Japanese trading firm Mitsui, was kidnaped Nov. 15 while playing golf in Canlubang, Laguna.

The sources said Wakaoji is now in the hands of government authorities.

The Japanese executive will be presented to the media soon, possibly today, the sources said.

There was no independent confirmation of the reported release of Wakaoji.

The other day, Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin said Wakaoji would be released within the week.

Asked what the basis for his statement was, Sin said, "Basta [enough], he will be released. God is telling me."

He repeated his statement eight times during a visit to the Ateneo de Manila University.

A new group of Japanese newsmen arrived this week following unconfirmed reports on the Japanese executive's impending release.

Wakaoji's kidnapers earlier demanded from Mitsui P5 million for his release. It could not be learned whether a ransom was paid to the kidnapers.

ARMED FORCES ON 'FULL ALERT' FOR NPA ANNIVERSARY

BK281116 Hong Kong AFP in English 1111 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, March 28 (AFP) -- The Philippines Armed Forces went on full alert here Saturday on the eve of the 18th anniversary of the founding of the communist New People's Army (NPA).

The full alert status took effect at 8 a.m. local time (0000 GMT) in anticipation of NPA attacks during its anniversary Sunday, military spokesmen here said.

The order from Armed Forces chief General Fidel Ramos means that all 250,000 military and police units are on call for duty 24 hours a day, and security on all military camps and installations are strengthened, they added.

Eight NPA guerrillas were killed in clashes with government troops in three northern Philippine provinces Thursday and Friday. The official PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY reported Saturday. Several other rebels were wounded in the gunbattles in Abra, Cagayan and Pangasinan, while the government patrols sustained no casualties, the agency said.

Over 400 people have been killed since February 8 when the NPA ended a 60-day truce with government forces, according to official reports.

REBEL SPOKESMAN SAYS FIGHTING TO INTENSIFY

OW290550 Tokyo KYODO in English 0432 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, March 29 KYODO -- Fighting will intensify in urban centers including Metro-Manila and the countryside in the coming months as communist guerrillas vowed to resist military operations ordered against them by President Corazon Aquino, a guerrilla spokesman said Saturday.

Ka [Comrade] Greg told KYODO NEWS SERVICE in an interview outside Manila that the rebel army is "made determined" to fight back after Aquino had opted for a "military solution" after negotiations aimed at ending the 18-year-old insurgency collapsed in January. "We are now in a position to carry out the struggle more actively than ever especially now that the U.S.-Aquino regime has virtually taken away political restraints," the rebel spokesman said quoting from a statement issued by the New People's Army [NPA] on its 18th founding anniversary on Sunday.

Last week, Aquino ordered government troops to "smite the left and the right" and promised to end the rebellion during her term as president.

Armed Forces chief Gen. Fidel Ramos placed all military units on "full combat alert" to forestall attacks by the NPA on military and government installations. Close to 400 people have been killed in insurgency-related incidents since the 60-day truce ended on February 8.

The NPA, organized by radical students and peasants in 1969, started out equipped with about 36 rifles. It was founded in a clandestine meeting in a village of Aquino's hometown of Tarlac, 110 kilometers north of Manila. Today, military authorities say that NPA's 24,000 guerrillas operate in nearly all of the country's 73 provinces and influence about 20 percent of its 41,000 villages.

Asked why the NPA had decided to bring the war to the capital, Ka Greg said: "We are in a civil war ... and they are intensifying the counterrevolutionary violence against the revolutionary movement ... we cannot just stay put and do nothing."

Guerilla Actions Begin

OW281258 Tokyo KYODO in English 1247 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, March 28 KYODO -- The armed wing of the Philippine Communist Party has begun mounting "genuine" guerrilla actions in Manila, a spokesman for the rebels said Saturday.

The Spokesman said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, however, that the targets of the guerrilla activities in the Philippine capital are limited to "vicious" policemen who "mistreat" the general public and to military personnel.

The spokesman for the New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines are becoming genuine in order to resist all-out assaults of government forces. [sentence as received] The interview took place on the outskirts of Manila on the eve of the 18th anniversary of the founding of the NPA on March 29, 1969.

Nearly 20 police officers and military personnel have been killed in Manila since a 60-day provisional cease-fire expired on February 8. Communist guerrilla activities have previously been confined to provincial areas such as Davao and Cebu.

GOVERNMENT, CPLA-CPA SIGN AUTONOMY AGREEMENT

HK280542 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] The historic Cordillera document was signed yesterday between the government and CPLA [Cordillera People's Liberation Army] and the CPA [Cordillera People's Alliance] at the mansion house. Vice Mayor Paraan elaborates on this.

[Begin recording] Philippine Ambassador to the United States Emmanuel Pelaez and Father Conrado Balweg representing the CPLA and the CPA signed an agreement yesterday, March 27, 1987, at the mansion house, stating among other things the (?mutuality) and satisfaction over talks held between the Cordillera and the government panels. The agreement included a plan to create a preparatory commission to draft the executive order to be signed by President Aquino stating the type of autonomy for the Cordilleras; the formation of technical committees on both sides to review the draft and submit the final form of the executive order to Cory Aquino, which, when finished, is still subject to the provisions of the Constitution and to a plebiscite; work for ratification of the executive order at a plebiscite in the Cordilleras. The agreement expressed the gratitude of the Cordillera people and the panel members to Cory Aquino, stating their support to her administration. [end recording]

EXILED MILF LEADER RETURNING TO NEGOTIATE

BK281132 Hong Kong AFP in English 1124 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, March 28 (AFP) -- Exiled Moslem rebel leader Hashim Salamat is returning to the Philippines to take part in peace talks between the government and a rival insurgent faction, a government official announced Saturday.

Zacarias Candao, head of an autonomous Moslem region on the southern island of Mindanao, said he met with Mr. Salamat in Saudi Arabia earlier this month and that he has conveyed the rebel leader's message to President Corason Aquino. "He simply told me to convey to the president that he would come to the Philippines without the need of inviting him;" Mr. Candao said over government television.

"He is willing to participate in the talks now going on," Mr. Candao added.

The development was the first major break on the Moslem question following an impasse reached this week in the talks over which portions of Mindanao and other southern islands should be granted autonomy and through which process.

Mr. Salamat, leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), had previously shunned the talks between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), from which the MILF broke away in the late 1970's.

Mr. Candao said Mr. Salamat would come to Manila "probably within the month of April."

The MNLF, headed by Nur Misuari who has also returned from exile in the Middle East, had previously said it would only agree to accept the MILF in the talks if the splinter faction agreed to be represented by the MNLF panel.

A third faction, calling itself the MNLF Reformists, is boycotting the talks which resume on April 9 after a two-week recess.

Mr. Candao made the announcement a day after the government bluntly rejected the MNLF's demand for full autonomy in Mindanao and four other southern islands, comprising a third of the Philippines' total land area.

Chief government negotiator Emmanuel Pelaez said Friday that the MNLF's proposal for Mrs. Aquino to issue a decree for Mr. Misuari to become chief minister of a provisional government to rule over the autonomous region for five years was tantamount to secession. He said the government was still willing to negotiate with the Moslems for limited autonomy on a smaller area, and that any law covering the grant of autonomy would have to be passed by Congress and ratified in a plebiscite.

The MNLF launched a guerrilla campaign for independence of the Moslem minority in the south in 1972, but the campaign has waned in recent years and the rebels agreed to cease-fire with the government in September.

Muslim Leader Confirms Report

HK271221 Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 27 Mar 87 pp 1, 6

[Excerpt] The Fundamentalist Moro Islamic Liberation Front [MILF] has agreed to participate in the peace negotiations between the government and Muslim rebels, a Mindanao official said yesterday.

Muslim leader Zacarias Candau, chairman of the autonomous Region 12, said he was able to talk to foreign based MILF leaders who confirmed that their chairman, Hashim Salamat, would join the negotiations in Manila scheduled early next month.

Candau said Hashim may formalize his group's participation in the peace talks before the government meets with the Moro National Liberation Front on April 9.

The Hashim group, which broke away from the MNLF when its chairman Nur Misuari advocated secession, has continuously ignored the government's offer for peace negotiations.

Candau yesterday met with top Palace officials, but he would not comment if the MILF's participation was discussed.

Candau is the former legal counsel of the MNLF.

Government peace negotiator Emmanuel Pelaez last night said, however, he has no information that Hashim has agreed to join the talks. [passage omitted]

MILF Leader Denies Return

BK291148 Hong Kong AFP in English 1141 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Jeddah, March 29 (AFP) -- The head of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on Sunday denied a Philippine Government official's announcement that his organization would take part in the on-going autonomy talks.

The Jeddah-based SAUDI GAZETTE newspaper reported Sunday that MILF leader Hashim Salamat said that the MILF "would not participate in any negotiations." "We made this point clear to the deputy minister of foreign affairs Mamintal Abdul Jabaar Tamano in our negotiations last year in Jeddah," he said.

He emphasized, "We don't intend to participate in any negotiations, especially if Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) chairman Nur Misuari is included in the talks."

He conceded that he met Zacarias Candao, head of the an autonomous Moslem region on the southern Philippines island of Mindanao, earlier this month in Jeddah, but denied telling him that the MILF would participate in the talks.

Mr. Candao said on Philippine television that Mr. Salamat had told him to tell President Corazon Aquino that he would "come to the Philippines without the need of inviting him." Mr. Hashim categorically denied the statement but admitted that he had been approached repeatedly by official emissaries to join talks which reconvene on April 9 after a two week recess.

SOVIET ENVOY URGES REMOVAL OF ASIA-PACIFIC BASES

HK181245 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 18 Mar 87 pp 1, 16

[By I.S. Chammag]

[Text] Baguio City -- The Soviet Union said yesterday that the best way of achieving peace in the Asia Pacific region is for all foreign powers to dismantle their military bases in the area.

Soviet Ambassador Vadim Ivanovich Shabalin made the suggestion in an interview with newsmen here during the opening of the Russian photo exhibit at the University of Baguio.

Shabalin said that the USSR is for peace in the world and he also urged that all nuclear weapons be outlawed in the region.

"There should be mutual verification and control of the military bases, and inspection should be coordinated with supervision in accordance with the rules of the country where the nuclear weapons are located," he also said.

Shabalin was obviously referring to the U.S. military bases in the Philippines and elsewhere in Asia as well as the Soviet military installations in Vietnam, particularly in Cam Ranh Bay.

He said that the USSR supports the clamor of most Asians for the region to be nuclear-free.

Shabalin cited the support which the Soviet Union and China have given to the Saratoga agreement in which 10 South Pacific states declared that all the areas within these states should be nuclear free-zones

He said that to prove its support for the agreement, the USSR has initiated the partial withdrawal of Soviet troops from Mongolia.

DEBT RESTRUCTURING REACHED WITH CREDITOR BANKS

HK280540 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] In New York, the Philippines and its creditor banks have agreed to restructure 15.2 billion dollars in commercial bank debts, lengthening the repayment period and lowering the interest rates. Finance Minister Jaime Ongpin told a news conference that the package also included the program for allowing the creditor banks to swap some of the debts for equity investments in certain Philippine enterprises. Credit [words indistinct] over a 17 year period with a seven and a half year initial grace period includes 5.8 billion dollars in debts already restructured in 1984, 3.5 billion dollars in debt falling due from 1984 to 1992, 2.96 billion dollars in trade credits and 925 million dollars in new loans granted in 1985.

Ongpin said that over the 17 year restructuring period, the Philippines would save nearly 2 billion dollars in lower interest payments and would reduce foreign exchange spendings through the debt-equity swap program. Under the program, creditor banks could use interest payments to buy Philippine investment notes or [word indistinct].

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